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Iran hits out at Frankfurt fair ban

NICOSIA (R) — Iran warned Monday the latest chapter in the Salman Rushdie affair, a ban on Iranian publishers attending the Frankfurt Book Fair, was not in the interests of the German government. "Such actions would not be in the interests of the German government," Tehran Radio quoted Vice-President Hassan Ebrahimi Habibi as saying. Book fair officials said Thursday they were banning eight Iranian publishers, following pressure from writers protesting against Iran's death sentence on Mr. Rushdie, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" was condemned as blasphemous by Iranian leaders. Two of its translators were found stabbed earlier this year. "Organisers of the fair are pressured by those who oppose relations between Iran and Europe, including Germany, rather than being concerned about freedom of expression," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Habibi as telling reporters in Tehran. "Undoubtedly the Zionists who are very active in the field of propaganda throughout the world are involved in this case and so are the Americans," Mr. Habibi said. He said the ban would not annoy Iran.

Oman says world not to worry about oil

NICOSIA (R) — Big oil and gas reserves are waiting to be tapped in the Middle East and the Soviet Union and the world should stop worrying about future supplies, an Omani official said Monday. "The Middle East and the Soviet Union are among the areas richest in oil and that could be developed in future," said Rashid Ben Khaled Al Birwani, director of the Oil and Gas Marketing Department at the Omani Ministry of Petroleum. He told the Omani News Agency a three-day seminar that ended in the southern Omani town of Salalah Monday concluded that future oil exploration promised good results. He said 42 officials and experts from the United States, Europe and Gulf Arab states took part in the seminar "impediments facing the world's oil industry in the 1990s." One of the problems identified by participants was the rising costs of exploration due to lack of equipment and technical expertise, Mr. Birwani told the agency. Hamstrung by poor maintenance and political chaos, the world's biggest oil producer, the Soviet Union, has seen its output fall by nearly three million barrels per day (bpd) to below 10 million (bpd) in the past three years. Falling Soviet oil exports, the Gulf crisis and rising world demand has pushed virtually all other producers to pump flat out.

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Iran to stage rival Mideast conference

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will host an international convention next month to discuss ways of supporting the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. It said it was inviting 350 "combatant personalities" from Palestinian and Lebanese groups and Muslim countries. The United States hopes to convene a Middle East peace conference sometime in October. Tehran and hardline groups in the region have denounced the U.S. peace drive. The Iranian conference, from Oct. 19 to 22, will discuss practical ways of supporting the uprising and stopping migration of Jews to Israel.

Algeria legalises 53rd political party

ALGIERS (R) — The Algerian interior ministry has legalised the 53rd political party to be formed since reforms two years ago ended the one-party system. The Algerian news agency APS said Monday the new party, the Rassemblement National pour le Progrès — RNP, was headed by Boucheb Abdel Malek. Algeria was ruled by the National Liberation Front (FLN) for nearly three decades after independence. The first multi-party general elections, postponed from June, are due to be held this year.

Sudan may set up free trade zone

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan, eager for foreign investment to help its economy, is studying the possibility of setting up a duty-free zone on the Red Sea, the Sudanese news agency SANA reported Monday. It said Minister of Industry Taj Al Sir Mustafa had formed a committee to outline practical measures and suggest sources of financing to the zone, proposed to be set up between Port Sudan, its main sea outlet, and Suakin, some 65 kilometres south. SANA also quoted a member of Sudan's 12-man ruling military junta as saying that the country would begin extraction of oil later this year. Colonel Salah Kassar, who is in charge of the economy in the ruling council, said Sudan possessed considerable reserves of crude oil, but gave no figures. Fighting between government troops and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had hampered previous oil exploration efforts.

Sweden elects conservative speaker

STOCKHOLM (R) — A centre-right coalition expected to become Sweden's next government overcame its first test of fire Monday by winning approval of its nomination for a new conservative speaker of parliament. The 349-seat Riksdag voted 184-150 to replace Thage Peterson, a widely respected Social Democrat, with conservative Ingemar Troedsson, who became the first woman speaker in the history of Sweden's parliament. Conservative leader Carl Bildt is expected to form a government with the Liberals, Christian Democrats and Centre Party following the defeat of the ruling Social Democrats in general elections on Sept. 15.

Japan emperor visits Malaysian memorial

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Japan's Emperor Akihito laid a wreath Monday at a monument to Malaysia's fallen soldiers but palace officials accompanying him insisted the gesture had nothing to do with World War II. "The emperor was paying tribute to the Malaysian soldiers who died fighting the communists not during the Japanese occupation," an official told reporters. Emperor Akihito arrived in Kuala Lumpur earlier Monday on the second leg of a historic Asian tour aimed at burying bitter memories of Japan's brutal wartime occupation of the region.

Ensur reports progress in Arab coordination talks

Foreign minister gives brief outline of proposed course for peace process, U.S. letter

LONDON (Petra) — A meeting in New York of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt discussed issues related to the "real substance" which will be tackled at the proposed Middle East peace conference in October, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour was quoted as saying Monday.

The meeting, held on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly session, focused attention on the process of consultations aimed at coordination among the concerned Arab parties ahead of the proposed conference and not procedures of the peace parley. Dr. Ensour was quoted as saying in an interview published by the London-based Arabic-language daily Al Hayat.

The New York meeting reviewed the assurances that the various Arab states have sought ahead of the negotiating process, the duration of the conference and the prospects of the gathering, he said.

The minister also gave a brief outline of the proposed course for the peace process saying that the first, two-year stage of the process will involve arrangements for Palestinian autonomy and the second stage, which will begin in the third year and will last for one year, will involve other issues, including the question of occupied Jerusalem.

The participants at the New York meeting emphasised the need for a united Arab position with regard to United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and its interpretation since there had been different interpretations of the resolution passed in 1967, Dr. Ensour said.

The Arab ministers will meet again to continue consultations and coordination, he said. (The head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation — PLO — who, in his capacity as the foreign minister of Palestine, was to have attended the meeting, did not attend since he was busy with the meetings of the Palestine National Council in Algiers. He is expected to attend the next meeting, the date and venue for which are not known yet.)

Dr. Ensour said the objective of the negotiations is to save the Arab land and implement Resolution 242 based on the concept of exchanging land for peace that would guarantee Israel's full withdrawal from Arab territories and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination as well as the right to return to their homeland or get compensation.

"Negotiations represent a mere process which would not necessarily lead to the signing of a treaty or peace agreement or selling out anything to Israel," Dr. Ensour said. He added that the signing of any accord will take place only after agreement has been reached

among the Arab parties. "If the Arabs find that Israel has nothing substantial to offer then the present state of affairs will continue," he said.

Dr. Ensour referred to a speech U.S. President George Bush made at the American Congress in March this year and said it contained an initiative for the implementation of Resolution 242, which means exchange of land for peace. "This is a question of land and not of refugees," according to the American initiative and the letters of intent that were handed over to the parties involved," Dr. Ensour said.

The American initiative considers Israel's presence in the Arab territories it occupied since 1967 as illegal along with all Israel's "annexations," including that of the Golan Heights and the city of Jerusalem, he said. "No occupied territory will be an exception in the forthcoming negotiations," he said.

Dr. Ensour said the American letter of intent stated clearly and emphasised that there can be no exclusion of the issue of Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinians to return or get compensation.

According to the American letter, the Palestinians in the diaspora will have the right to participate in the second stage of negotiations, Dr. Ensour said.

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He said the team would spend the next two days in Bahrain, field headquarters for the inspection teams, evaluating the information it had assembled before returning to Vienna to file its report to New York.

A group of U.N. ballistic missile inspectors is scheduled to leave Bahrain for Baghdad Tuesday. If all goes well, they will be the first U.N. team to use their own helicopters to travel between Baghdad and western Iraq, where they will inspect Iraqi Scud missile launch sites.

Team leader Kay said all the material, which the Iraqis finally let them keep after making a joint inventory, was already undergoing intensive analysis at the IAEA and elsewhere.

Asked how close Iraq had been to making a nuclear weapon, he said: "That's one of the things I hope to answer after I look at the documents. We've collected an immense amount of data that will take months to analyse."

The names of firms which had signed contracts with Iraq would "certainly be communicated to the governments of the countries. It's a political decision as to whether to make them public," Mr. Kydd said.

But because the Iraqis often used intermediaries and because some of the parts could be used for legitimate peaceful purposes, it was not clear if the companies or their governments knew what was happening, he said.

Mr. Kay's group was the largest of all the inspection teams yet sent to Iraq under Gulf war ceasefire resolutions which give the United Nations a mandate to seek out and destroy all Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons.

U.N. officials said privately that the departure of the group, which has been fiercely attacked in the Iraqi media, might cool the atmosphere before another potentially tension-fraght mission arrives on Tuesday.

The next group of inspectors, the 21-member ballistic missile

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KING MEETS BEN BELLA: His Majesty King Hussein received in audience at the Royal Court Monday former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella and his wife. The King and Mr. Ben Bella exchanged views about the current situation in the Arab region. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended the meeting (Petra photo)

Moscow ready to respond in kind to U.S. arms cuts

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union is ready to respond in kind to sweeping unilateral U.S. nuclear arms cuts announced last week, Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said Monday.

"The Soviet Union is ready to undertake comparable actions," he told a news conference. The independent Interfax news agency Monday said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev — who publicly gave only a cautious welcome to the announcement of the cuts — was preparing a set of counter-proposals to be presented later in the week.

The cuts announced by President George Bush Friday include the destruction of all U.S. ground-launched tactical nuclear missiles and the removal of nuclear cruise missiles from submarines and warships.

"The Soviet side is ready to get down to the proposals made by President George Bush constructively and without any delay," Mr. Petrovsky said.

"The most important thing is not just mere discussions but an early implementation of actions," he added.

Mr. Gorbachev said Saturday that although he viewed the proposals as "very positive," he was unclear how they affected nuclear test bans and the position of France and Britain, who have their own independent nuclear arsenals.

"The Soviet Union is ready to establish any contacts with the United States in relation to banning nuclear tests. We would like to propose immediate limitations on underground nuclear tests," Mr. Petrovsky said.

New Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin had already established working contact with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to compare notes on the proposals, he said.

"Today we attach primary importance to beginning early dialogue with Washington. There are certain questions which arise on this initiative," Mr. Petrovsky said.

"On the other hand we too have some counter-proposals, but we cannot postpone this dialogue," he said.

Mr. Petrovsky said fellow Deputy Foreign Minister Alexei Obukhov would visit the United States in October and meet Mr. Baker to review the whole range of issues.

He also said he hoped that other nuclear states would become involved in the process.

Moscow has large stocks of tactical and cruise missiles stationed on submarines and in the western Soviet Union. The disintegration of the central Soviet state and the collapse of the economy has added urgency to its nuclear disarmament drive.

Mr. Gorbachev said he and Mr. Bush agreed that the sides should set up a forum to clarify the proposals, the most dramatic since the two superpowers began their cold war nuclear rivalry in the 1940s.

Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, speaking to the Japanese paper Yomiuri Shimbun in an interview published on Monday, hailed Mr. Bush's initiative and noted Washington no longer considered Moscow as its main enemy.

The United States, which is trying to arrange the peace conference for October, also opposes new Jewish settlements.

A Muslim fundamentalist group denounced the PNC decision to back U.S.-led Middle East peace efforts and urged Palestinians on Monday to reject the resolutions.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said in a statement the PNC decisions responded to American-Zionist demands.

"The resolutions do not represent the aspirations of our people. Therefore, they are non-binding," a statement read.

The PNC ended a five-day meeting in Algeria Saturday by welcoming U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's efforts to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks. But it stopped short of saying Palestinians would attend the talks.

"Any (Palestinian) delegation that will be formed to attend the conference which will sell Palestine and Jerusalem is illegal and

King, Arafat discuss peace process

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday had a telephone conversation with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. The two leaders discussed resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) which concluded its meeting in Algiers Saturday as well as developments in the peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

In other related developments: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has asked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to stop building new settlements in the occupied territories before a Middle East peace conference opens, Israel Radio said Monday.

Mr. Mubarak sent Mr. Shamir a message saying he risked missing the last chance for peace in the region if Israel went on moving Jewish settlers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it said.

The Israeli government is campaigning to increase the Jewish population of the occupied territories, where some 100,000 Jews already live in fortified settlements.

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S. Africans rally against "apartheid" tax

PRETORIA (R) — Thousands of blacks marched in South African cities Monday at the start of a mass campaign against a new tax they say is racist.

Labour organisations hailed the demonstrations in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and other cities as a success and said they marked the beginning of a massive campaign of civil disobedience against the introduction of value added tax (VAT).

They said the tax, imposed by the white minority government of President F.W. de Klerk, is to bolster white business and entrench white supremacy with the main burden falling on millions of impoverished blacks.

Activist Winnie Mandela, wife of African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela, said black people were being made to pay for the economically disastrous apartheid policies of successive white governments.

"We need a new government, not a new tax," she declared after leading about 15,000 people through the capital.

Communist Party official Ronnie Kasrils, under a banner reading "Stealing from the poor to give to the rich," told a crowd of 5,000 in central Johannesburg: "This is the first stage in a war against VAT."

The only reported incident of violence was in Cape Town, where police said some demonstrators broke from the main body of 10,000 and "terrorised, assaulted and robbed" a party of schoolchildren.

No arrests were made and no independent confirmation of the

incident was immediately available.

The 1.2 million-member Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has promised an unremitting campaign of civil disobedience, including a two-day general strike in November, to undermine the entire tax system.

Najibullah proposes vote, rebels attack his town

KABUL (R) — Afghan President Najibullah proposed on Monday that the United Nations supervise local elections as a step towards ending civil war as Mujahadeen guerrillas reported a major attack on his home town of Gardes.

Mr. Najibullah told a news conference that if all sides agreed he could set a date for free direct elections in which political forces could gauge their popular support.

The vote would "test the water" for future government elections, he said.

Pakistan-based Afghan rebels, who have rejected Mr. Najibullah's previous peace offers, said they had launched a tank-backed attack on the eastern town of Gardes Monday morning, taking 20 government posts and Mr. Najibullah's nearby native village.

No independent confirmation was immediately available.

About 3,000 Mujahadeen took part in a four-pronged attack on the capital of Paktia province, breaking through its first defence line in several places, guerrilla sources in the northwestern Paktia town of Peshawar said.

They said government forces retaliated with air raids on guerrilla strongholds.

The sources said prominent guerrilla commander Jalaluddin Haqqani had led the attack on Gardes, only a day after a Mujahadeen delegation left for United Nations talks aimed at ending the war.

The rebels have been shelling Gardes since Sept. 18 in their bid to capture the city, the guerrilla

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Barzani urges Kurds to accept autonomy deal

SULAIMANIEH Iraq (R) — Kurdish guerrilla leader Massoud Barzani came to speak of peace, not war.

Four white doves were released into the sky as he stepped up to address a wildly cheering crowd of more than 50,000 followers in this northeastern Iraqi city late last week.

Urging conciliation and compromise, in marked contrast with his ally and political rival Jalal Talabani, Mr. Barzani recommended the Kurds accept a draft autonomy deal with the Iraqi government.

The Kurds opened autonomy talks with the government in April after the collapse of their rebellion sent two million people fleeing to the mountains of Iran and Turkey.

"The agreement will open new horizons for Kurds to return to the land of our fathers and ancestors," Mr. Barzani, who heads the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), told the rally in a football stadium.

"I have never said the agreement is perfect. There are defects in it, but there are also many positive gains for us."

It was a far cry from the defiant message Mr. Talabani conveyed when he spoke to an equally enthusiastic crowd in the same stadium less than a month ago.

The two men have been jockeying for leadership since negotiations on autonomy were completed in mid-August.

Mr. Talabani head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK),

seemed well ahead in the early rounds.

First he blocked support for the draft accord, at least temporarily, within the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, an umbrella organisation of political parties in northern Iraq.

Then he pounded Mr. Barzani in a series of provocative speeches, whipping audiences to a frenzy by promising to resist the government and never to give up the "Kurdish Jerusalem" of Kirkuk.

Having endured Mr. Talabani's taunts for weeks, Mr. Barzani's performance in Sulaimanieh was remarkably restrained. But the few jabs he threw all found their mark.

"No one ever gave a better description of Kirkuk than my father, Mullah Mustafa, who called it the heart of Kurdistan," he said. "No one can outbid us on this, because no one has given more martyrs or made more sacrifices for the sake of Kirkuk."

The Kurds have an almost mystical attachment to oil-rich Kirkuk, a city whose status the proposed autonomy agreement leaves dangling — a weakness Mr. Talabani has pinpointed.

But one name is even more resonant than Kirkuk to Kurdish ears, that of the late Mullah Mustafa Barzani, hero of past Kurdish revolts and embodiment of Kurdish nationalism.

Massoud Barzani is his political heir, a point not lost on the crowd waving hundreds of pictures of father and son.

As political entertainment, the



Massoud Barzani

contest is rich. Mr. Talabani, the shrewd tactician and podium-thumping party man, versus Mr. Barzani, the brooding, self-sufficient strategist.

But soon the debating must stop and the Kurdistan front will be under pressure to take a decision on autonomy.

There is talk of a popular referendum if it remains divided on the issue, but it is unclear how this could be arranged in a region where perhaps a quarter of the people are displaced.

Alternatively, the front may name a broadly representative national congress of up to 1,000 members to bite the bullet.

Abdullah Ahmad drove 170 kilometres from Howaja with his two sons to listen to Mr. Barzani. He liked what he heard, but was adamant that Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani work out their differences.

"We want them to be as one man," he said. "The one who tries to go his own way will take a fall, the people will see to it."

Tunisian ministers start bye-election campaign

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian ministers have launched the ruling party's bye-election campaign for nine vacant parliamentary seats with concerted demands to exclude the country's main Muslim fundamentalist movement from society.

Interior Minister Abdallah Kallal, who said Saturday the fundamentalists had planned to assassinate President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, told an election rally Sunday. "The terrorists have no place in the Tunisia of the new era."

The Islamic Al Nahda (Renaissance) movement, once the main opposition force, will not be contesting the elections on Oct. 13 because it has no legal status and because some 300 of its leaders and members have been in jail since May.

The six legal opposition parties will also be absent. They are boycotting the elections on the grounds that the government has not convinced them the voting will be free and fair.

The ruling party has held all 141 seats in parliament since the last general elections in 1989.

Mr. Kallal invited opposition leaders and human rights groups at the weekend to see videotapes of confessions in which four fundamentalists allegedly say Al Nahda planned to kill Mr. Ben Ali, Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, Mr. Kallal, Justice Minister Abdul Rahim Zouari and Defence Minister Habib Boularès.

"From now on, silence on the part of any party towards this band of terrorists will be considered collusion," he said.

Mr. Zouari said, "the statements recently made by the extremists show clearly that they reject all civilised behaviour and are hostile to the institutions of the republican system."

"There's no longer any reason to talk of a political dispute between the government and this movement. Only an impostor would now claim that," added Mr. Boularès.

Mohammad Jeri, the minister who heads the president's office, said that when Tunisians went to vote, "they will not only be carrying out a conventional operation but making a clear riposte to those who plot against the achievements of the nation."

The legal opposition parties, which supported the government against Al Nahda when plot allegations first surfaced in May, have not yet taken a position on the new allegations.

But their relations with the government have been strained for the past few weeks after negotiations failed on the bye-elections and on the democratic process in general.

Mr. Ben Ali had offered to give the opposition between four and seven seats in parliament by allowing them to stand without competition from the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union.

Mr. Kallal said Saturday the aim of the alleged Nahda plot was to seize power by creating a constitutional vacuum.

The new confessions are additional evidence about the alleged plot which led to the roundup of Al Nahda leaders in May.

'U.N. team held in Iraq transmitted papers to U.S.'

NEW YORK (R) — The U.N. nuclear inspection team held last week in Baghdad secretly transmitted contents of the documents they obtained on Iraq's nuclear industry while besieged by Iraqi troops, Newsweek magazine said.

In its latest edition, the magazine says the inspectors used portable communications gear to beam the seized information up to a satellite while they were penned in by Iraqi troops in a Baghdad car park.

The signal was relayed to a secret base in Bahrain and then on to intelligence analysts in Washington, it added.

The inspection team transmitted the information while David Kay, the American head of the team, used his satellite phone to give interviews to the international news media.

Newsweek said the seized documents reveal that a number of facilities that the Iraqi Defence Ministry had claimed were merely being used for research were in fact being used to build nuclear devices.

At one such facility, in Al Ather, Iraqi engineers were secretly trying to build an implosion device to detonate a fission bomb — a sphere of highly enriched uranium the size of a tennis ball, the magazine said.

The 44-member inspection team, from the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, was freed early Saturday after being held for four days. They flew out early Monday.

The inspectors had been detained for refusing to give up the documents that they seized in line with U.N. ceasefire terms calling for destruction of Iraq's nuclear weapons.

Mr. Kay said the documents opened up broad new areas of Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme. Iraq says the documents were innocent personnel files of its Atomic Energy Commission workers.

Among the documents, the inspection team found contracts and lettersheads from a wide array of Western countries, including some European industrial giants and several U.S. companies, Newsweek said.

In Baghdad, Mr. Kay said Sunday all those documents — consisting of 5,000 pages of records, 19 hours of videotapes and 3,000 photographs — had been flown out of the country.

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Likud seeks Egyptian help to revoke resolution

TEL AVIV (AP) — A delegation of Likud legislators planning to visit Cairo this week will ask Egypt to help revoke the U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism, a spokeswoman said Sunday.

Sarah Doron, the chairman of the Likud faction in parliament, and Eliyahu Ben-Eliass, head of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee, are members of the four-member delegation, spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein said.

The group, leaving Tuesday for Cairo, met with Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir Sunday. Mr. Shamir approved Mr. Ben Eliass' proposal to "demand Egyptian support for (U.S.) President (George) Bush's proposal to revoke the U.N. resolution that equates Zionism with racism," Ms. Eckstein said.

President Bush, speaking to the U.N. General Assembly last month, asked that the 1975 resolution be revoked.

The delegation plans to meet with Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali and other government officials and hopes to strengthen



Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali

Repatriation of Iranians in Iraq begins

BAGHDAD (R) — The first organised repatriation of Iranian refugees in Iraq began Monday when 400 people left a long-term camp west of Baghdad for reception centres in Iraq.

The repatriation, which involved a convoy of 10 trucks and two buses, was organised by the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

About 30,000 Iranians of Kurdish origin live at the Al Tash camp, 120 kilometres west of Baghdad. About one-third of them have registered for voluntary repatriation.

UNHCR spokesman Panos Moutzidis said the repatriation process would take about two months.

The convoy was due to be met by UNHCR staff from Iraq at the Mansuriya border post, about 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, and taken to Banger and Harin camps, 80 kilometres inside Iraq, in Bakhtra province.

Al Tash camp was established in 1983 to accommodate displaced Iranian Kurds who had moved to the area from border towns because of the Iran-Iraq conflict. The eight-year war ended in 1988 with a ceasefire.

U.N. team

(Continued from page 1) "team" will be the first to use its own helicopters to travel between Baghdad and Western Iraq.

Iraqi officials, apparently fearing an attack on President Saddam Hussein, prevented the last ballistic mission from using the helicopters and it left without going to the Scud sites.

U.N. officials in Bahrain, field headquarters for the inspection teams, said Sunday the last obstacle to the use of the helicopters had been cleared and Iraq would allow them to use Baghdad's Al Rashid airfield.

But officials in Baghdad say the helicopters, on loan to the U.N. from Germany and currently in Turkey, are such a sensitive issue that they could not rule out further hitches.

The helicopters are expected to fly to Baghdad Tuesday or Wednesday for use for the first time on Thursday. The group is scheduled to supervise the destruction of 28 fixed Scud missile launch sites.

Calm prevails in Algiers after emergency lifted

ALGIERS (AP) — President Chadli Benjedid has lifted the state of emergency imposed in June after bloody rioting by Islamic fundamentalists interrupted campaigning for legislative elections.

Algiers was busy Monday. The country has been calm in recent weeks, and tanks called out at the height of the violence have long disappeared.

But the end of the emergency measure was not without incident. Abdel Kader Hachani, a leading member of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), was arrested Friday after criticising the crackdown during Friday prayers at a mosque.

"His arrest 48 hours before the lifting of the state of emergency was a clear warning: we are watching you all," a FIS official said on condition of anonymity.

Violent street agitation by the FIS prompted Mr. Benjedid to order the state of emergency June 5, giving the military wide powers of arrest and detention.

The government acknowledges that 55 people were killed and about 3,000 arrested, including

Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, president and vice president of the FIS.

The fundamentalists and other parties claim 300 died and a much higher number were arrested.

Mr. Hachani was acting president of party's executive bureau and leader of its radical wing, which boycotted negotiations with the government until Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj are freed.

The pair, charged with the capital crime of fomenting rebellion, went on hunger strike Sept. 7 and have been hospitalised.

Mr. Hachani was charged with inciting disorder, threatening and blackmailing authorities, contempt of authority, and violating the law protecting mosques, according to government charges.

"The government cannot decapitate us," the FIS official said at party headquarters, a decaying building in downtown Algiers. "They would have to imprison 8 million Algerians to do that."

The office was stripped of fax machines and other equipment when the emergency measures took effect.

Najibullah proposes secret vote

(Continued from page 1)

and its implementation "would build up an atmosphere of trust in the country."

He cited the examples of Nicaragua and Angola as proof that such an approach could work. "Why should Afghanistan be left out?"

Diplomatic sources said there could be some international pressure to take up the offer but the rebels were unlikely to agree to come to Kabul while Mr. Najibullah was in power.

The Mujahideen have repeatedly denounced as illegitimate the Kabul government they have fought for 13 years, saying they would have no dealings with it. The question of five million or

more Afghan war refugees in Pakistan and Iran and how they would take part in an election would be a major problem, an Afghan intellectual said.

"We can't expect the opposition to be willing to have government representatives in places like (rebel-held) Khost (town) or Takhar (province) while the notorious Ward state security agency is still operating," he said.

With Afghanistan patchwork of small and often mutually antagonistic guerrilla groups it would be hard to make a unified agreement stick, an Asian diplomat said.

U.N. officials in Kabul have in the past privately described the idea of elections in Afghanistan as an "expensive nightmare."

Israel expected to free Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

South Lebanon in 1986. Israel said after freeing the first batch of Arab prisoners it had received word that Sheikh had been killed.

Arad, an airman whose plane was shot down in the south in 1986, is the only one of the six Israeli servicemen still missing in Lebanon known beyond doubt to have survived capture.

But the diplomats said obtaining word for Israel on Arad's fate was a possible hitch to ending the seven-year hostage saga — no group or state had confirmed holding him or his remains.

Westerners missing in Beirut include five Americans, two Germans, one Briton and an Italian, who is believed by diplomats and security sources to be dead.

Arad, an airman whose plane was shot down in the south in 1986, is the only one of the six Israeli servicemen still missing in Lebanon known beyond doubt to have survived capture.

But the diplomats said obtaining word for Israel on Arad's fate was a possible hitch to ending the seven-year hostage saga — no group or state had confirmed holding him or his remains.

Westerners missing in Beirut include five Americans, two Germans, one Briton and an Italian, who is believed by diplomats and security sources to be dead.

Ensur reports progress

(Continued from page 1)

The foreign minister said Jordan was firmly committed to a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem — "a solution that will address the problem in all its aspects and dimensions."

"The Jordanian people believe that negotiating for peace does not mean signing a peace treaty or capitulation to the enemy," Dr. Ensour said. "Jordan does not believe in separate peace treaties," he added.

"Under no circumstances will Jordan let down other Arab countries, but at the same time it can by no means accept a situa-

tion where it finds itself alone in saying 'no'," he said.

"Being a democracy, Jordan is bound to witness groups which express their diverging views and opposition through lectures, the media, seminars and writings," Dr. Ensour said. Even in the official media there are groups which openly voice their opposition or support vis-a-vis various issues and decisions, he said.

"We live in the light and under the sun and are not afraid of anything," he said, adding that based on this firm position "the outcome of the peace process will be satisfactory."

King, Arafat discuss peace process

(Continued from page 1)

does not represent our people," said Hamas, which boycotted the PNC session.

The PLO's agreement to attend the surrender conference is a clear response to American-Zionist pressures he it through taking necessary decisions or by backing those leaders who are unwelcome by the Americans as part of desperate (PLO) efforts to resume the dialogue with the Americans," it added.

"We urge all the Palestinian factions and people to move now and rectify the course that was taken by the PNC by telling the whole world that the resolutions do not represent them."

Hamas, one of the most active groups in the 45-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule, has long opposed attempts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict through diplomacy. It advocates holy war as the only means to liberate all of Palestine.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Cartoons
18:35 Soudine Canche
19:00 News in French
19:15 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Who's the Boss
21:10 Our House
21:20 News in English
22:30 French feature film

PRAYER TIMES

06:07 Fajr
06:24 (Sounding) Dhuhr
12:26 Dhuhr
15:09 'Asr
18:28 Maghreb
19:45 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nativity Church, Swedish Tel. 810740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785, 68336.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440.
St. Basil Church Tel. 661737.
Turrettini Church Tel. 62246.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

62541.
Anglican Church Tel. 62563, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771371.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 68326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 62824, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds will be light and variable becoming at times northeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northeasterly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 18 / 32
Aqaba 20 / 34
Dumana 20 / 34
Jordan Valley 20 / 37

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 32, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Sawwneh 779971
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 783708
Dr. Issam Al Asmar 895904
Dr. Wael Kharrabi 659777
First pharmacy 659772
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 626272
Al Salan pharmacy 636738
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Al Hayek (—)
Al Shams' pharmacy (273825)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ezzeddin Abdul Salan (—)
Khaliq pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 891228
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 895390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 845845
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 775111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hamm Medical Centre 81381322
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642416
Jabal Attuman Maternity 642392
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 661714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Manashir Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6661646
Isfahan, Al-Mohajir 777015
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marj 89161155
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)800390
Bin Sina Hospital (09)86732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital (09)90990
IRBID:
Pineco Bama Hospital (02)23555

COMPANY

RJ Flight Information 06-33200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-33200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:20 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:30 Amman (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:00 New York, Moscow (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Belgrade (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Amman (RJ)
11:15 Brussels, London (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Paris (RJ)
12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:50 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:20 London (RJ)
21:40 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:50 Damascus (RJ)
21:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Paris (AF)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Moscow (SV)
13:30 Rome (AZ)
20:15 Larnaca (CY)
20:15 Amsterdam (KL)
20:30 Beirut (ME)
22:15 Khartoum (SU)
06:20 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Amman (RJ)
11:15 Brussels, London (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Paris (RJ)
12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:50 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:20 London (RJ)
21:40 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
2

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Pressed in conflict

THE INTERNATIONAL Seminar on News Coverage in War Time that just ended its meeting in Amman was a timely exercise in view of the high stakes involved in mass media, especially in the context of armed conflicts. News coverage of the Vietnam war, especially on television and radio, was a watershed for objective reporting that brought home the agonies and suffering of warfare to the American people and the rest of the international community. The screening of the way that war was conducted had been credited for stopping the war and for bringing it to a negotiated resolution. But, alas, this positive feature of journalism and television reporting also reaped a suspect result, namely, the demise of fair reflection of the harsh truth about armed conflicts in the mass media in general and on television screens in particular. The Gulf war of 1990 and the manner news coverage of it was manipulated or doctored were a vivid example of how institutional reporting on warfare had come under control at the expense of truth and reality. Likewise, the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation have had to endure censorship of every kind by the occupying forces in a bid to conceal the truth about Israel's 24-year-old savage occupation and oppression. Elsewhere in the world where there are armed conflicts or political repression, the traditional pattern to keep the lid on facts and complete information has continued unabated. At the same time the struggle on behalf of the free flow of information continued to suffer and sustain one defeat after the other.

While there is no overall panacea to all the ills or setbacks encountered by the mass media, it is useful to begin the process of both internal and international debate on the subject. There might come a time when an internationally binding code of conduct would be articulated and adopted to govern news coverage and to which governments and members of the information media would be parties. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has made several attempts to accord journalists and other members of the mass media protection from death, detention and abduction. These efforts need to be fortified and extended in order to reach other dimensions of the information enterprise. The mere physical protection of the men and women engaged in the noble profession of news coverage is not and cannot be enough, albeit it is an immediate and pressing objective. Safeguarding the integrity of the profession by according professionals additional support, including the aiding and facilitating the fair and honest portrayal of news on all occasions and not only under conditions of military confrontations, is a worthy consideration and deserves to be accorded a high priority on the agenda of any exercise on the subject of free and objective dissemination of vital information. The Amman seminar on the subject served as a good beginning, but it requires a follow-up in other regions of the world in order to set the stage for an international effort to deal with the entire host of issues that come under it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAEL is escalating its onslaught on the United States administration, accusing it of siding with the Arabs in the peace process and demanding that the American government offer the required loan guarantees to the Jewish state as a price for its participation in the U.S.-sponsored peace negotiations, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that the Israelis, for the first time, are suspicious of the U.S. administration's policies in a clear demonstration of its determination to oppose the peace process. This is a kind of pressure on Washington to give the loan guarantees or give up the idea of achieving peace in the Middle East based on U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the paper. This adamant position clearly indicates that Israel is linking the two cases in a bid to abort the U.S. plans for peace, the paper pointed out. It said that the American administration had made it clear that it wants Israel to stop the Jewish settlements, and insisted that it can not provide guarantees for loans to finance settlements. Should the Bush administration hold out and refuse such pressure, it would give further credibility to its peace plans and its determination to implement the international legitimacy, the paper added. It said it is hoped that the U.S. administration would realise that the time has come to push harder for the implementation of Security Council resolutions and give further momentum to the peace process.

Al Dustour daily said Monday that the decision by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to accept the U.S.-sponsored peace process has opened the way for a greater prospect of coordination between Jordan and Palestine with regard to the peace conference. Jordan has welcomed the Palestinian leadership's decision seeking the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the paper. The subsequent international appreciation and support for the PNC decision should prompt the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships to step up their efforts for the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to go to the conference which is expected to convene within a month from now. The two sides, the paper said, can, through dialogue and meetings, come out with a formula for joint participation in the conference and therefore, they are called upon to start work immediately so as to achieve that purpose. The PNC meeting has authorised the Palestinian executive Committee to take whatever steps necessary to pursue the efforts for peace. Therefore, said the paper, one can see no obstacle in the path of the coming coordination which, among other things, can speed up the peace process and abort Israel's bid aimed at thwarting the peace conference.

Why Palestinians should go to peace talks

By Daoud Kuttab

AS the Palestine National Council debated the pros and cons of attending the proposed peace conference, much of the discussion has been focused on the deficiencies in the U.S. assurances to the Palestinians and the weak position that Palestinians would find themselves in by going to a peace conference that doesn't recognise Palestinians as a people and fails to grant Palestinians the right even to name their delegation or to talk about central issues like Jerusalem. While all these points are important, there are nonetheless many reasons why Palestinians should attend the proposed conference despite these deficiencies:

— To protect and regain Palestinian land: Even as deliberations are taking place whether to go or not to the conference, the Israelis are carrying out record setting settlement activity. The only way that the settlement building can be stopped is if there is a peace conference. Palestinian absence might wreck the conference but will not stop settlement building. With all its deficiencies the U.S. letter of assurances talks about land for peace and the end of occupation. This is clearly one of the main aspirations of Palestinians.

— To help Palestinian steadfastness on their land: In addition to land, the most important Palestinian possession is the people living in the occupied territories who continues to be an obstacle in the way of Israeli annexation. The continuation of the status quo ante is certainly not helpful to Palestinians. Emigration continues to be a major problem as the brain drain threatens to weaken the building of the nucleus for the Palestinian state. Frustration and bitterness have caused many Palestinians around the world to give up on the national struggle.

— To be present in a forum dealing with Palestinian affairs: Palestinians have for some time now decided that no forum dealing with Palestinian issues must be held without a credible Palestinian representation. While everything might not be blowing our way in as far as giving the PLO the free right of representation, failure to be present will only allow non-Palestinians or renegade Palestinians to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people, and make decisions influencing their future without getting their input.

— To break the PLO's isolation: There is no doubt that agreeing to attend the peace conference will raise the PLO's standing both in Arab and international circles. Supporting the peace conference will be a major breakthrough for the Palestinian organisation since no Palestinian can attend — as has been clear during the meetings with James Baker — without the PLO's approval and intimate involvement.

— To widen the gap between Israel and the U.S.: Since Palestinians have little military power, they must use every means possible to strengthen their political power. The recent clash between President George Bush and Israel gives the Palestinians the perfect opportunity to help distance American policy from the pro-Israeli lobby. Saying yes to the conference will give a big boost to the Bush and Baker team and will help change American public opinion in favour of Palestinians — something which will be crucial in the coming months and years when the talks will surely be much more crucial than now.

— To change Israeli public opinions: In addition to U.S. public opinion Palestinians need to do much more work on the Israeli public to galvanise them for peace. The recent statement by 24 members of Knesset and the possibility of convincing many more

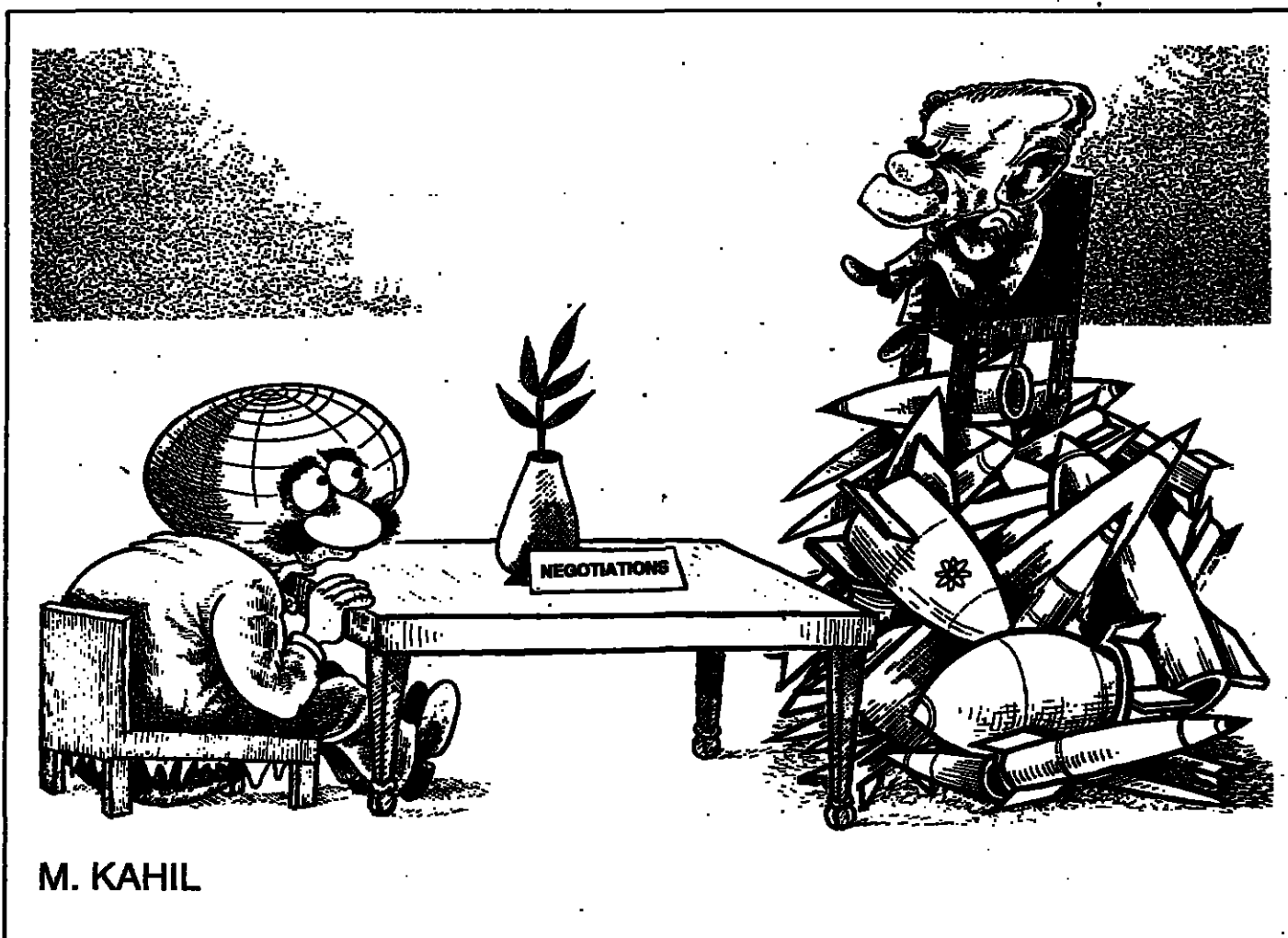
surely exists. What is needed is a bold and courageous Palestinian support for the peace conference. Ambiguity and double talk will not help much. The Israelis need to hear and see a firm Palestinian commitment to the peace process. Positively influencing the Israeli public will surely pay dividends in the area of stopping settlements, curbing Israeli oppressive practices and strengthening the Israeli peace camp.

— To revitalise the intifada: Slowly but surely the intifada as a popular protest movement is being eroded. Non-violent tactics are being discarded and are being replaced by armed attacks, shootings, explosions and molotovs. Refusing to join the peace conference will only speed up this erosion and strengthen the radical camps and Islamic fundamentalism which is going for maximalist goals. With a revitalised intifada Palestinians who have few cards to use in negotiations could be armed once again with a very powerful negotiating card: namely a strong and vibrant intifada. Only a peace process can give the Palestinian masses the hope to go on and to develop the uprising.

— To strengthen the building of the infrastructure of the Palestinian state: Even since the PLO declared the Palestinian state, there have been attempts to lay down the foundations for this state. This building process has run into major Israeli obstacles. With the self-governing power promised in the interim period, much more work can be done in this area. Those in Israel and the U.S. who are opposed to a Palestinian state often base their opposition on the weakness of the Palestinian economy and the lack of the foundations for a state. Statehood will certainly not be given to Palestinians on a silver platter. Only by preparing and working hard for it can it become more attainable.

— Because the Israelis don't want a peace conference: It doesn't take a genius to realise that the last person who wants the peace conference to take place is Yitzhak Shamir. He will be the happiest person if it fails to convene because Palestinians decide to boycott it. For the last few years Palestinians have succeeded in putting Mr. Shamir and his government in the corner simply by denying him the luxury of having Palestinians make the mistakes and miss the opportunities. The moment of truth for the Israelis will certainly come when Palestinians attend the conference and call the 43-year-old Israeli bluff that there are no Palestinians to talk to.

— Because there are no other credible and effective alternatives: Despite the continuous Palestinian attachment to international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions, they have not succeeded in getting any major world power to put teeth to these resolutions. And despite the declaration of a Palestinian state in 1988, Palestinians have not found the mechanism to transfer that resolution from paper to real life. The U.S.-USSR conference, despite all its deficiencies, provides Palestinians with this badly needed mechanism. It is certainly not what they wanted but in real life nothing is as you want it. However, rejecting the conference will be useless unless there is another credible and effective alternative. At the present time this doesn't exist. Gorbachev in the fall of 1991 is different from Brezhnev of 1973. The Arab leaders, the non-aligned countries, Arab nationalism and the Palestinian national movement today are less effective than they were in the late 1970s. Without a single Arab country opposing the peace conference, without a credible armed struggle and in a monopolistic world the alternatives available to the Palestinian leadership are very few.



M. KAHIL

Palestinians board U.S. peace train

By John Baggaley
Router

ALGIERS — Palestinians, led by Yasser Arafat, clambered aboard the U.S. Middle East peace train at the weekend.

But they joined it laden with requests for assurances, still wondering if the ticket was overpriced.

Diplomats said the fact they had effectively joined the peace process, even if not yet giving an unconditional "yes" to attend the U.S.-Soviet proposed peace conference, kept the initiative on track.

"Despite all the opposition, Mr. Arafat has a good majority behind him and there are plenty of people on board," one Western diplomat commented, after the Palestinians parliament-in-exile meeting in Algiers which welcomed the Bush-Gorbachev initiative.

Israel, seldom forthcoming with positive statements on the Palestinians, has also signalled its satisfaction although it says it wants more time to study the decision.

"Basically it seems like a positive trend," a government source close to Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir commented.

Israel itself has only given a conditional acceptance, insisting among other things on retaining a veto on who should represent the Palestinians.

The Palestinian decision is seen at least as a half-step forward. The ambiguous wording of the mandate to the PLO executive gives Mr. Arafat the necessary leeway to take the other half-step when he is ready to do so.

Palestinians say he is master at using such ambiguities to do what he wants, and Mr. Arafat appears determined to ensure that the Palestinians are not left out if the conference is held.

Without the Palestinians, there is no realistic chance of a comprehensive Middle East settlement and Washington is aware of this, diplomats say.

Despite the publicly announced refusal of Washington to deal with the PLO, two de facto representatives Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi are due to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker next week.

Mr. Baker has met the two on several of his seven trips to the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war in February and they are widely seen as a conduit for

U.S. messages to the PLO. "They are in daily contact with the PLO. Everybody knows the PLO is being represented by Mr. Husseini and Mrs. Ashrawi," said Israeli opposition parliament member Dedi Zucker.

Mr. Arafat on Saturday had no doubts that negotiations were continuing and would do so. But for him "the ball is now in the other court... with the American administration, the (conference) co-chairman... with Israel, Europe and the United Nations."

The Palestinian document outlined six points the PLO executive committee is to work on for the "success of efforts to convene the peace conference."

Mr. Arafat and other Palestinian moderates stress these are not "conditions" for Palestinian participation but that they were essential for progress in ending four decades of Arab-Israeli conflict. They say assurances are needed on those points.

Hardliners see the six items — which can be translated as "points," "principles" or "bases" — as conditions to be met before Palestinians decide to join the peace talks.

"Some of them are (still) going to be difficult, like the one on any

Palestinian representation at a conference, but I think people can live with it, although the Israelis won't like it," the Western diplomat said.

The vexed question of who will represent Palestinians has long been a major stumbling block to the conference but the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is still alive.

One of the points seen nearest to being "conditional" by many Palestinians — both moderates and hardliners — is the demand that Israel ends Jewish settlements in occupied land.

American statements describe them as an obstacle to peace. Palestinians want Washington to say they are illegal and would violate the peace process if they continue after a given date.

The hardliners' threats to quit the PNC if it went along with the Americans fizzled out. Mr. Arafat also managed to resolve a long-simmering row between heads of two factions of the divided Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and keep both within the fold.

"I thought Arafat's performance was a tour-de-force," said one diplomat present for much of the week-long parliament.

LETTERS

To kiss...

To the Editor:

Although the name Nidal Ibrahim sounds Arab, it seems to me that Mr. Ibrahim, the writer who complained about not seeing kisses on Jordan Television, is up to his ears, or maybe his lips only, dipped in the Western culture of outright, unrestricted and unlimited freedom.

I might be giving the impression that I am against everything that is Western, but I wish to assure Mr. Ibrahim and the Jordan Times readers that I do wear a shirt and trousers and a necktie everyday. I have been to the U.S. and there I enjoyed life in full, falling only short of offspring. So kissing is no problem for me or the many many others who share my view or went through such experience.

You see, Mr. Ibrahim, the world is full of different cultures, habits, customs, ways of thinking, values and dozen other aspects of people's personality and, if it was easy for you to get out of your skin, I do have a label on my forehead saying that I am an Arab.

I belong to the Abaya, Hatta and Iqal. I live in a conservative environment of bedouins and drink the Arabic coffee (sada) and I don't need to have a cat or a dog at home to be able to enter the category of "human beings" and watch a kiss on television.

I am sure some Africans would mock some of my acts and maybe the Japanese would appreciate some others, but the mere fact remains that as an Arab I respect my traditions and see them almost as "heavenly" as much as I respect values of other cultures anywhere.

Wanting kissing scenes on television is not a sin, I agree, but does Mr. Ibrahim know that some people think that television is evil?

I can deliver a long lecture on this subject but please note that whether Arabs are backward or whatever, we do have standards, ethics and values that no power on earth can unearth. It is simple: this is the way it is here and people like Mr. Ibrahim should not expect to see the same movie Americans watch in the U.S. or Europeans in Europe.

Samir Ghawi,
Amman.

To kiss not

To the Editor:

Thank you for all your efforts in making the corner "Letters" a successful one. I am proud to write to your newspaper and I'll be grateful if you publish my letter.

I read the letter wrote by Mr. Nidal Ibrahim on Sept. 17, 1991. He expressed his view and this is a right protected by the Constitution.

Mr. Nidal criticised the interference of the TV censors who cut off scenes from movies. I agree with him that TV officials should not "guide" our taste. Nevertheless, I believe that they must censor movies and cut out shameful scenes for the benefit of our community for the following reasons:

First, children watch feature films on Thursdays and Saturdays because they have a holiday next day and, as everybody knows, children imitate everything they see. If one argues that they should be sleeping instead of watching TV, I'll ask: "Are all parents in our community doing their duty properly in this scope? I don't think so."

Second, the greatest problem is that the teenagers, who are the most affected by these scenes as they are immature, will imitate the actors wherever there will be a chance. The victims to be chased here will be girls walking innocently in the streets or girls of the neighbourhood, even girls chased at their school doors. Poor teenagers must not be blamed here because their imagination is inspired by these destroying scenes and they are helpless to prevent themselves from imitating them.

Third, permitting these scenes is bound to provoke crimes, especially rapes, and I am sure nobody dreams to react the degree of crimes that Western communities have reached because they have free commercial TV associations who present disgusting movies and scenes. We want our children to feel safe in their own country and not to be threatened by criminals taught by the master who is the TV!

Mr. Ibrahim says that people can change channels if they don't want these scenes, but are you depending on a teenager to realise what's good for him and his community? Do you expect him to change channels when a kissing scene is on?

Rana M. Bin Tareef,
Faculty of Law,
University of Jordan,
Amman.

Way to go guys!

To the Editor:

Nidal Ibrahim's and Eleni Al Sabbagh's letters to the Jordan Times on Sept. 15 and Sept. 18 have drawn the attention of many readers who think they are absolutely right about Jordan TV.

It takes guts to do what these two have done and as a reader of the newspaper, I just want to say: way to go guys. What's wrong with kissing on TV? If the moviemakers thought kissing was wrong, they would not have written that part into the movie in the first place. So please, for God's sake, give us a break, will you!

What I mean to say is let us enjoy whatever good films there are with no interruptions.

Elsat Lee,
Amman-Jordan.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Archaeological Museum displays Ummayyad frieze

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A section of the frieze that once decorated the facade of the Ummayyad Mushata Palace, near the Queen Alia International Airport south of Amman, and the only part of the "Great Frieze" remaining in Jordan was Tuesday moved to the Archaeological Museum in Jabal Al Qala after being found in the garden of a neglected house in Jabal Al Weibdeh, officials said.

The minister of tourism, Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, informed the Department of Antiquities about a site with archaeological artifacts in Jabal Al Weibdeh and it was immediately checked out, informed sources at the Department of Antiquities said.

"We did not know of this site when the minister of tourism informed us about it," Director General of the Department of Antiquities Safwan Tell said.

"When we got there we found that the garden of a house once owned by a pasha during the Ottoman era was filled with removable archaeological objects taken from various sites around Jordan," Dr. Tell said.

"Obviously the pasha was fond of these objects, and has collected some columns and other objects to beautify his garden," he said,

adding that the pasha must have purposely selected this house to reside in because it is built above an archaeological site of Roman caves.

"While looking around the garden, which appears to have been neglected for over 15 years, I saw, behind the overgrown bushes, a section of about one square metre with a hexagonal rosette carved onto it. The rosette, made up of two pieces, was immediately identified as part of the Great Frieze that until 1903 was above the entrance of the Mushata Palace. In 1903 the frieze was dismantled and completely shifted to Germany as a gift to the emperor of Germany from Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II. The frieze is now on display at a museum in Berlin," Dr. Tell said.

The rosette is hexagonal, with a floral outline, and represents acanthus leaves arranged geometrically. The rosettes were positioned below the zig-zag shaped section of the frieze. Because of its massive size and because the frieze is made up of thousands of stones, each stone was numbered before it was dismantled, put in boxes and shipped to Germany by boat. It is possible that this rosette was hidden before 1903 and therefore not sent to Germany," Dr. Tell said.



Rosette made up of acanthus leaves, part of a frieze adorning the facade of Mushata Palace, south of Amman (Department of Antiquities photo)

According to Dr. Tell, the Great Frieze shows Islamic art characteristics. "The floral and geometric motifs typical of arabesque design and the carvings of lions, panthers, tigers, birds and the mythical griffin (a mythical beast part lion and

part eagle) on the frieze make up this masterpiece," he said. "Jordan is presently trying to retrieve the frieze from Germany, but the response was that a copy of the frieze can be made and sent to Jordan," Dr. Tell said. "But we are still trying."

Dr. Tell said that the frieze was made for a palace that was never finished and possibly never inhabited. "The palace was built around the year 1740, but it was too expensive to finish it, and in 1750 the Ummayyad Empire collapsed," Dr. Tell said.

PLO stands to gain by supporting Mideast peace talks

By Sami Aboudi
Reuters

JERUSALEM — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will reap political and financial gains from its decision to support Arab-Israeli talks, Arab and Israeli analysts and Western diplomats say.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) on Saturday welcomed U.S.-Soviet efforts to hold a peace conference. Invitations are expected to be issued soon and Washington says it is committed to convening the talks next month.

"It would definitely improve its (the PLO's) standing to say it is willing to reenter into the international community," a Western diplomat in Jerusalem told Reuters.

PLO fortunes took a direct hit in the Gulf war when its leader Yasser Arafat lined up squarely behind Saddam Hussein. Its 18-month dialogue with the United States, suspended by Washington over a failed Palestinian sea raid on Israel, had appeared less likely to be restored since the war.

But with radical Abu Abbas, whose guerrillas carried out the raid on an Israeli beach, squeezed off its executive committee, the PLO is anxious for the United States to resume the dialogue. Analysts said Washington was unlikely to rush into such a move,

fearing it could give Israel an excuse to retreat from the peace conference.

But Washington appears willing to leave the door ajar for a PLO role.

A letter of U.S. assurances to Israel is expected to state that Israel would not be obliged to negotiate with the PLO in the first stage of peace talks, but the letter did not rule out PLO participation during a later stage.

Eager to find a way out of its isolation, the PLO named Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories last March to discuss terms for a Palestinian role in peace efforts. It retained the right to ultimately decide on participation.

Even Israel — refusing to talk to the PLO which it brands a terrorist group — has turned a blind eye to local Palestinian leaders having contacts with the organisation.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met Palestinian nationalist Faisal Al Hussein, Hanan Ashrawi and Zakariya Al Agha during his seven trips to Jerusalem though they associated themselves with the PLO.

They highlighted the PLO's decision-making power by delaying a response to U.S. proposals until the convening of the PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile last week. In spite of fierce opposition by hardliners,

the PNC voted to embrace peace talks.

"The PLO has achieved something very important. Now it is clear to the whole world that they are (the ones) saying yes or no," said Israeli parliament member Dedi Zucker of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement.

"They have shown they were not pushed out of the picture," he told Reuters.

Saeb Erekat, a West Bank political scientist and a leading pro-PLO figure said: "There were attempts to punish the PLO (after the Gulf war), but the PLO has proven once again it is the party which calls the shots as far as the Palestinian decision-making process is concerned."

Analysts said the PLO may restore ties with Washington's Arab allies who were among the first to boycott the group during the Gulf crisis.

"The PLO could restore relations with Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia," said Menachem Klein, a lecturer in Middle East studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"Arab states are also likely to renew aid to the PLO," he told Reuters.

Senior Palestinian leaders have already been holding talks with Egyptian officials and an adviser to Arafat has predicted Saudi Arabia may soon resume its financial support for the PLO.

Are U.S. concessions enough for Moscow?

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush has made dramatic concessions to the Soviet Union with his announcement of deep cuts in U.S. short-range nuclear weapons but analysts caution against expectations of quick further reductions in long-range atomic arsenals.

Defence experts said after Mr. Bush Friday announced plans to eliminate thousands of U.S. battlefield nuclear arms and shipborne cruise missiles that Moscow was sure to raise questions about U.S. ballistic missile submarines.

"The Soviet Union should certainly be interested in getting rid of the naval cruise missiles. We had a technological advantage there that was a thorn in their

side," said former Assistant Defence Secretary Lawrence Korb.

"But there will be a problem with further long-range cuts because we want the Soviets to eventually give up their land-based multi-warhead missiles while we keep our sea-based multi-warhead missiles," said Mr. Korb.

Mr. Bush announced in a televised speech that the United States would destroy all nuclear artillery shells and ground-based missiles in Europe and South Korea and recall hundreds of Tomahawk nuclear cruise missiles aboard warships.

He asked that the Soviet Union make similar short-range cuts and that the two sides seek to agree to get rid of all multi-warhead long-range nuclear missiles based on land.

But a senior U.S. official told

reporters at the White House that the United States would not eliminate its strategic submarines and the long-range nuclear ballistic missiles aboard, seen by the Soviets as one of the United States' most powerful weapons.

Experts questioned if the Soviet Union would be willing to scrap all of its 10-warhead SS-18 missiles on land unless the United States was willing to at least give up a portion of its submarine-based ballistic missiles.

"Everybody agrees that fewer missiles is good and this is a good proposal," said John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists.

"But the bottom line will be that even after both sides destroy naval cruise missiles and artillery, there will still be enough long-range stuff around to blow the world to bits," he said.

"I think the short-range moves will be matched quickly by the Soviet Union," said one senior Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified. "We realise that elimination of multi-warhead missiles is a perhaps a more difficult prospect, but the first move doesn't rest on the second."

Private analysts noted it took nearly 10 years to negotiate the recent U.S.-Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and they doubted there would be a follow-up to further reduce big missiles in the coming months.

"I think there's a fly in the ointment there," said Dubow Lockwood of the private Washington-based Arms Control Association.

"The Soviet Union leans heavily on land-based missiles and the United States on sea-launched

ballistic missiles as deterrence," Mr. Lockwood told Reuters. "Neither is going to abandon what it sees as its own strength unless the other gives a lot."

He and others cautioned that the thousands of warheads in the two countries are a complicated mix and a problem not easily solved.

Mr. Bush Friday also announced that the United States will immediately remove all U.S. strategic bombers from day-to-day alert status and return their weapons to storage.

And in another confidence-building move, he said he would remove from alert all U.S. intercontinental ballistic weapons scheduled to be deactivated under START and that the United States will accelerate their elimination after the treaty is formally ratified.

Suggestion to open KGB archives touches off anxiety

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The director of a U.S.-run radio station that broadcasts in Eastern Europe suggested Monday that KGB archives be opened to researchers, touching off howls of protests at a conference on the role of the free press in a democracy.

"Current and future generations must learn the whole truth about the dark periods of 20th-century history," said Eugene Pell, director of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which has broadcast uncensored news to the Soviet Union for decades.

But journalists at the conference defended the KGB chief's decision to keep the files closed, saying millions of informers could be exposed to retribution if the documents were made available.

"I think it would mean tragedy for millions," said Sergei Parkhomenko, a columnist for the

newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta. "Approximately a dozen of those present in this room would probably be interested in never seeing the archives opened," Mr. Parkhomenko said as a ripple of nervous laughter erupted among the 60 Soviet and foreigners attending the conference.

The lingering uneasiness about the KGB is just one of the difficulties facing Soviet media during the current transition from communism to democracy.

The topic was raised during the opening session of a two-day conference sponsored by the world Press Freedom Committee.

Mr. Pell urged a 38-nation human rights conference meeting here to ask Europe's former communist nations to preserve the archives of their state, party, and secret police and open them to all researchers.

But Mr. Parkhomenko and other journalists defended the de-

cision of the new KGB chief, Vadim Bakatin, to keep the KGB files shut.

Swedish journalist Mika Larsen recalled that when the same question was raised in Poland, President Lech Walesa said the country had no time or energy to waste on revenge.

"We demand so much more of Eastern Europe and communist countries than we would ever demand in our own countries," she said. "There are so many doors closed in our own countries. I think we demand too much."

Her response received the only round of applause during the session.

After several other protests, Mr. Pell returned to the microphone to explain that his proposal would not give journalists access to KGB files and his key proposal was to have the archives preserved.

But as the session broke up, several Soviet journalists said the

problem was opening the files at all, not who had access.

Anatoly Pankov, editor of the radical newspaper Kuranty published by the Moscow City Council, said there were problems for the media because the dictatorship of the communist party "has now been replaced by the dictatorship of certain democratic forces."

The printing presses that once belonged to the party now belong to the Ministry of Press of the Russian Federation, he said.

Anatoly Krasikov, deputy director of the news agency TASS, noted that for 70 years, the Soviet government opposed a free press and the media was still coming to grips with freedom of information.

The two-day conference is being held in parallel with the conference on security and cooperation in Europe, which monitors the 1975 Helsinki final act on human rights.

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On the occasion of the first anniversary of the German reunification

- Ode to Joy and Freedom. The fall of the Berlin Wall. Production of the German T.V., 1990 English 55 min. Book and direction: Beate Schubert. The film demonstrates in a impressive way the development from the end of the World War II, over the building at the wall 1961 and over the perestroika to the fall of the wall and the reunification. This development exceeded all expectations.
- Exodus from East Germany, 1989 English, 30 min. Tens of thousands at East Germany flee via Hungary and Austria to the Federal Republic of Germany; refugees talk about their motives for fleeing from the east.
- Berlin, Dec. 22, 1989 the Brandenburg Gate is open 1989, English 8 min. On December 22, 1989 the Brandenburg Gate, which had been the symbol of the division of Germany for almost three decades, was re-opened for foot-passengers. The film tries to give an impression of the mood in these days around the first Christmas together for the Berlin people, after 28 years of separation.

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Mancini set to make belated European debut for Sampdoria

(R) — Roberto Mancini, several teams and other throughout Europe, is determined to make up for lost time in his European Cup debut Wednesday.

Sampdoria's attacking captain, flanked by high-scoring striker Luca Viali, will want his share of the spoils when the Italian League champions visit Rosenborg of Norway.

Arsenal striker Kevin Campbell, listed in favour of hot-trick hero Wright Saturday, is also desperate to show the English champions that he is still as sharp as ever.

Liverpool, England's UEFA representatives, will be making their first cup-tie foray to mainland Europe since the end of the 1985 Heysel stadium tragedy. They take a 6-1 lead to Finland's Kuusysi Lahti.

Internazionale, Italy's UEFA Cup holders, need to reverse a 2-1 deficit at home to unfancied Boavista of Portugal.

But European Cup champions Red Star Belgrade, despite the troubles in Yugoslavia, have no worries about playing Portadown in Northern Ireland thanks to their 4-0 first leg lead.

Mancini was suspended for the home leg of Sampdoria's first round tie against Rosenborg and could only watch enviously as his team mates

romped to a 5-0 win.

This week he gets his chance and, judging from Sampdoria's crushing form in their last two league matches, the Norwegians could well be on course for another monumental drubbing.

The Genoese team demolished Internazionale 4-0 two weeks ago and repeated the feat Sunday at home to bottom club Ascoli to go second in the league. Mancini scored two of the goals.

So did Viali, top goalscorer in the league.

"Mancini's role was decisive in the match — we have rediscovered the will to win," said team coach Vujadin Boskov Sunday.

"We are improving fast and we will get better still.

"Against Rosenborg we will be going out to dispel our image in Europe as a team of defenders," he said ominously.

"We need to attack, despite the five-goal advantage."

Internazionale also need to attack, their 1-0 win over Lazio Sunday being unimpressive despite the first minute goal.

Arsenal's recent scoring record in England puts even Sampdoria to shame but new-signing Wright, scorer of three goals on his club league debut Saturday, is ineligible for their visit to Vienna, Austria. Arsenal won the first leg 6-1.

Campbell, an inspiration in that victory, does not intend to

allow Wright to keep him on the bench this season. England striker Alan Smith, scorer of a hat-trick against Vienna, missed the 4-0 defeat of Southampton Saturday but is now fit.

French champions Marseille, losing European Cup finalists to Red Star Belgrade last season, have a comfortable tie at home to Us Luxembourg after running away with the first leg 5-0.

Last time may not be on Marseille's agenda but it is causing friction among some of their league rivals at home.

Marseille drew 1-1 with Auxerre Friday and Auxerre trainer Guy Roux accused President Bernard Tapie of spending too much time with the referee before the match.

"He's a real seducer. Before the match I had to wait 20 minutes to give the match ball to (referee) Joel Quiniou because he was listening to Tapie's sermon," Roux said.

Tapie said he would report Roux to the disciplinary commission for the remarks. "He's insulting me. According to him I buy everyone — referees, the federation, journalists."

Spanish League champions Barcelona, with a 3-0 first leg advantage over Hansa Rostock of Germany, have slumped since then and lost 2-1 Sporting Gijon in the league Sunday.

It was their second defeat in

four league matches and Barcelona will almost certainly miss three players for the away leg in East Germany. Defender Juan Carlos and midfielder Jose Bakero are injured and Guillermo Amor is suspended.

Bayern Munich, who drew 1-1 at Irish Minnows Cork City, hope to have midfielder Stefan Effenberg back for Tuesday's UEFA Cup tie but Brazilian forward Mazinho is looking doubtful.

On-form Real Madrid host Czechoslovakia's Slovan Bratislava Tuesday in the UEFA Cup. Real won the away leg 2-1 but will be without their Yugoslav star Robert Prosinecki, who is out for four weeks due to a muscle strain in his left thigh.

Real, top of the league on goals, have won all their matches this season and beat Sevilla 4-1 at home Saturday.

The Spanish club were the talk of the Dutch League after Ajax coach Leo Beenhakker decided to rejoin Real in a three-year deal rumoured to be worth \$8 million.

Beenhakker was replaced by assistant Louis Van Gaal, who will coach the team for the first time in their UEFA tie against Sweden's Orebro Wednesday.

Ajax won the first leg 3-0.

Champions PSV Eindhoven, who host Turkey's Besiktas Wednesday after drawing the first leg 1-1, beat leaders Vitesse 2-1 for their sixth win in six matches.

Mansell's win raises spectre of Japan showdown

BARCELONA (R) — Ayrton Senna has seen it all before. Yet again, next month's Japanese Grand Prix promises to provide an enthralling showdown for the World Drivers' Championship.

Nigel Mansell's victory in Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix cut Senna's lead in the championship from 24 points to 16 and means that, in the last three years, the Japanese race on Oct. 20 could decide the title.

The Brazilian, a disappointing fifth Sunday, must finish second or prevent Williams driver Mansell from winning the penultimate race at Suzuka to retain his title.

Last year, in ruthless fashion, Senna on the title at the first corner at Suzuka when he collided with arch-rival Alain Prost, in a Ferrari, and both drivers had to retire.

The previous year, Senna lost his crown when he was in another collision with Prost, at that time his McLaren team mate, at the chicane and, after rejoining the race to win, was disqualified.

Senna, who took his first title at Suzuka with a decisive victory in 1988, would not rule out the chance of another accident next month.

Reflecting on the races on successive Sundays in Portugal and Spain, he said: "I have tried to avoid accidents, but sometimes this is a stupid way to go on and I may have to be a bit tougher now in the last two races. There is always the chance of another accident."

Senna was second in Estoril, behind Italian Riccardo Patrese in a Williams, after Mansell had

been disqualified over problems with a pit stop.

Mansell, knowing he must win in Japan to have a chance of the title, believes the pressure will be on the Brazilian to produce a championship-winning performance in front of the Honda hierarchy whose engines power his McLaren car.

"That is just what they didn't want," said the Briton.

"McLaren and Honda hoped to have it finished here in Spain. The last thing they wanted was to go to Japan to win it."

Mansell will be in confident mood in Suzuka. He has won five of the last eight races to Senna's two, with Patrese taking the other.

"They (Williams) have the fastest package and have done for most of the year," said Senna Sunday. "Ferrari are getting faster, too. We are going to have to stay cool but also to be tough."

After a row between Senna and Mansell at the pre-race briefing in Barcelona and some fierce driving in treacherous conditions in the afternoon, there is every reason to believe the Suzuka showdown will be just as explosive as those of the last two years.

Prost, who despite his proclaimed peace pact with Senna still clearly enjoys beating him on the track, could play a major part.

He has worked hard to improve the Ferrari performance and suggested Sunday that he would have won the Spanish race if he had not bowed to team pressure to use wet rather than slick tyres at the start.

Lahti takes no chances for Liverpool's Europe return

HELSINKI (R) — Lahti, hosting Liverpool's first overseas match in a European cup competition since the Heysel disaster, are mounting a major security operation to ensure there is no crowd trouble.

Seventy police instead of the usual two will be at Kuusysi Lahti's ground for Wednesday's UEFA Cup first-round, second-leg clash and four British officers have flown over from Liverpool to help spot trouble-makers among the visiting fans, Lahti police chief Pekka Ojala said.

"The security measures might look from the Finnish point of view a bit ridiculous but we can't afford the risk of trouble because there is a lot of attention being paid to this match across Europe," said Kuusysi Managing Director Pentti Korhonen.

"That's why we have taken these excessive security precautions," he said.

Liverpool have returned to Europe this season for the first time since the 1985 European Cup final at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels where rioting before the match between the English team and Italy's Juventus killed 39

people.

"I don't believe we shall have any trouble," Chief Ojala said.

Instead of the two police and 20 safety stewards usually at a Lahti game, there will be 70 police and 150 stewards, he said.

Kuusysi expect a crowd of between 10,000 and 15,000 for the game, despite the home side's 6-1 defeat in the first leg two weeks ago.

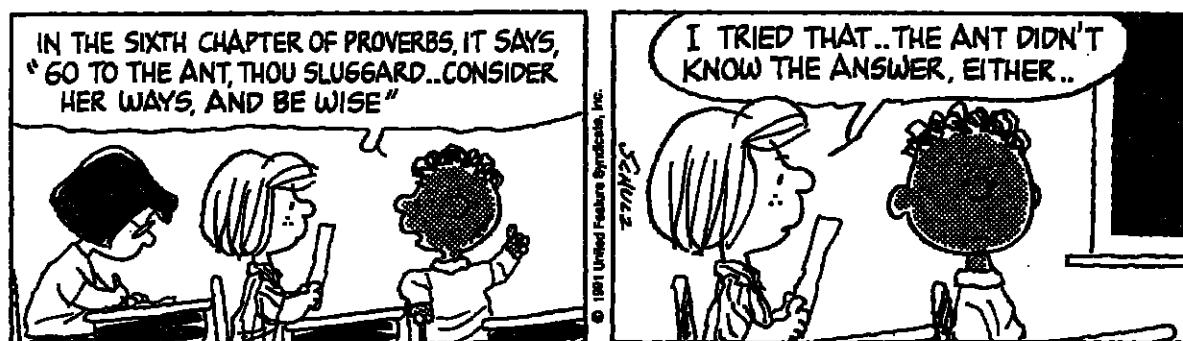
The Lahti club sent 630 tickets to Liverpool. Chief Ojala said as few as 150 fans might come in an official party but others were likely to arrive without tickets.

"There must be others who are coming by other means and who will buy tickets in Finland. They could come to Lahti earlier and plan something. The English policemen are very well-informed about these people," Chief Ojala said.

Liverpool fans will be taken by bus to a specially-segregated area of the Lahti ground. British embassy officials will be on hand in case anyone needs their help.

"What we are going through here is just standard procedure for all European games," an embassy official said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Orthodoxi crushes Watani 105-55 in U-19 basketball

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Watani, while rejoicing over reaching the second stage of the under-19 basketball championship, were brought down to earth, Sunday, when they learned — the hard way — what it is like to play against Jordan's best.

Led by Ziyad Al Nabulsi and Mantaser Abu Tayyeb, Al Orthodoxi beat Al Watani with a double score of 105-55.

In the other match of the day, title-holders Al Ahli beat Al Jazira 85-52.

Al Watani, depending upon their shooting ability to score against the taller players of Al Orthodoxi, were crippled when their foes played man-to-man defense in 35 minutes of the match.

"At the beginning of the match, scoring was close, but we were able to pull away ahead of them near the end of the first half which ended 51-20," Al Orthodoxi's coach Hilal Barakat told the Jordan Times. "I'm quite satisfied with my team's performance and team work."

Al Watani's head coach Ghaith Al Najjar pointed out to the absence of two players he depended on — Viken Mahserjian and Maher Zahdi. "We hope to overcome the mistakes and shortcomings of the last match and play better in our crucial match against Al Jazira," he said.

In the other match, Ramez Hammoudeh, Thamer Al Abumini and Mohammad Al Shamali led Al Ahli to an 85-52 win over Al Jazira.

Although Al Jazira was hampered by many personal fouls, they succeeded in scoring through fast-breaks while trying to catch up with Al Ahli who finished the first half 42-31.

"Al Ahli's coordinated teamwork and better experience made the difference in this game," Al Ahli coach Rizeq Al Masri told the Jordan Times.

On Tuesday, Al Orthodoxi will meet Al Jazira while Al Watani will meet Al Ahli. Both matches are at six o'clock and will be held at Orthodoxi and Ahli club courts.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Cypriot wins Cyprus Rally

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot Antonis Jeropoulos drove his Mitsubishi Galant VR4 to victory in the three-day Cyprus International Rally Sunday, the biggest success in his five-year career.

Jeropoulos, who led from the beginning of the 830 km event finished six minutes and 50 seconds ahead of last year's winner, fellow Cypriot Dimis Mavropoulos in an Audi Quattro. Turkish driver Iskender Atakan, the first Turk to take part in the Cyprus Rally since 1974, finished third in a Lancia Delta Integrale, barely eight seconds ahead of fourth placed Greek Emmanuel Panayiotopoulos in a Toyota Celica GT-4.

Hasek beats McEnroe in Basle

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Local favourite Jakob Hasek gave a fine exhibition in beating bad-tempered John McEnroe 7-6, 6-0, 6-3 in the final of the Swiss Indoor Tennis Tournament. Hasek, seeded sixth, showed he was on his way back to the top 10 in the world by beating McEnroe, the defending champion, 7-6, 6-0, 6-3 to earn his biggest winner's cheque of \$97,200. McEnroe's once-fabled touch deserted him completely in a rare second set whitewash which lasted just 28 minutes. The American argued heatedly with the umpire and harangued line judges when he disagreed with calls.

Maleeva-Fragliere wins Bayonne final

BAYONNE, France (R) — Manuela Maleeva-Fragliere overcame some aggressive play from Lela Meskhi of the Soviet Union to win the Bayonne women's tennis final 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. The top-seeded Swiss was powerless against a blistering opening attack by Meskhi, who raced to a 3-0 lead before taking the first set. But Maleeva-Fragliere fought back steadily, relying on some penetrating ground strokes to get back into the match and taking the second set as Meskhi, seeded second, began to tire. The final set has more evenly balanced with both players giving their best in a series of long, crowd-pleasing rallies. But one break was enough to give Maleeva-Fragliere the edge and she clinched the set 6-4.

Seles beats Fernandez in Essen

ESSEN, Germany (AP) — Monica Seles needed just 65 minutes to defeat American Mary Joe Fernandez 6-3, 6-0 in the final of the 500,000 Nokia Masters exhibition tennis tournament. Seles, ranked No. 1 in the world, traded service victories with Fernandez for the first six games of the match. But with the first set tied 3-3, the 17-year-old Yugoslav stepped up the pressure with hard accurate shots to the corners and lines putting Fernandez on the defensive. Seles took the next nine games and the match.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1991

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Eternity those you are fond of and wind up winners because of the most important to you before you try to move ahead break new ground. Avoid those older person who lie.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can't seem to get your family to understand what you want early but later you are able to join with them in family pleasures to be enjoyed.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Think over a plan that can get you a good schedule for the day and then you find you can carry through in afternoon and evening making good result.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you find that most everyone is willing to help you make more money after you have first considered how you want to spend it on pleasures.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) After a rather depressing start you can accomplish and achieve a great deal now that is highly personal and means a good deal to you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are able to gain the good will and active alliance of some ingenious experts who are deliberate but that is because they think problems out carefully.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your day to be just as social as possible, acting and being with those you like and getting others to go along with your plans.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Let that official know you are willing to do the civil duties that are expected of

you and avoid an early appearance of reluctance to him.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) So many new plans can be proposed to you by newsmen or come to your attention in many sources that you hardly know which to engage in.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You feel early you just don't know how to handle present conditions but soon you have most prophetic insight just what you can do to gain approval of usual contacts.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Very early is not a good time to see that associate who means much to you but as the day progresses you are able to meet with and get results.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You now find that most everyone you contact wants some service from you which is alright so join with enthusiasm any projects to be done.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) After getting some dreary project completed you have a fine day to use every spare moment at the recreation that bring you a feeling of pleasure.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he relies on their personal magnetism and charm to get things done instead of doing the work themselves. They really don't mind taking care of the details themselves once the spirit moves them and they can see that there are substantial financial benefits coming their way.

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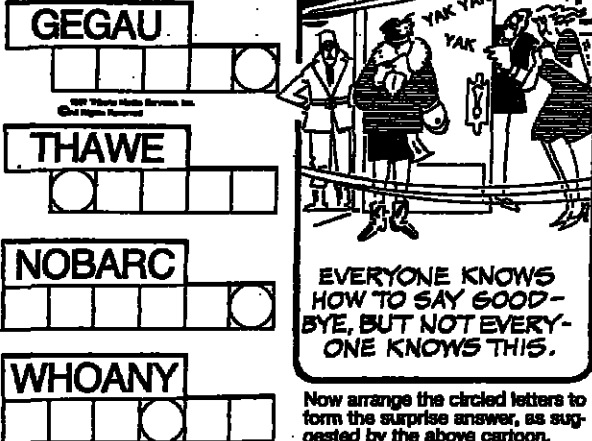
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

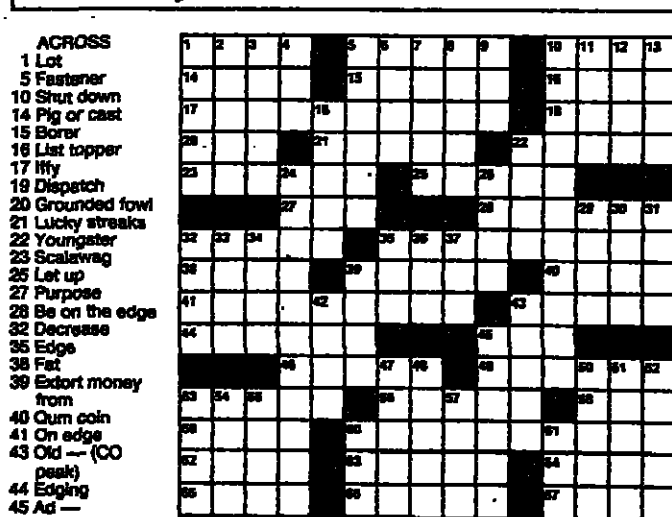


Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: HAREM FAMED DIVIDE SHANTY

Answer: The fortune-teller "painted" herself off as someone who knew how to do this — READ HANDS

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 27/9/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 30/9/91
Sterling Pound	1.7480	1.7465
Deutsche Mark	1.6699	1.6667
Swiss Franc	1.4530	1.4496
French Franc	5.4990	5.6615
Japanese Yen	133.20	132.95
European Currency Unit	1.2320	1.2322

Interbank Bid rates for accounts denominated in U.S. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MYR	3 MYR	6 MYR	12 MYR
U.S. Dollar	5.43	5.56	5.56	5.68
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.18	10.32	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.25	9.31	9.37
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	8.00	7.81
French Franc	9.25	9.57	9.43	9.43
Japanese Yen	6.75	6.46	6.21	5.96
European Currency Unit	9.87	9.93	9.93	9.87

Previous Month

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.55	6.80	Silver	4.10	.095

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Mid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.6860	.6880
Sterling Pound	1.1971	1.2051
Deutsche Mark	.4112	.4133
Swiss Franc	.4728	.4752
French Franc	.1807	.1813
Japanese Yen	.5158	.5184
Dutch Guilder	.3649	.3667
Swedish Krona	.1127	.1133
Italian Lira	.0550	.0553
Belgian Franc	.01779	.01789

Other Currencies

Currency	Mid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7900	1.8000
Lebanese Lira	.07495	.07710
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1829	.1867
Qatari Riyal	.2000	.2100
Egyptian Pound	1.7450	1.7900
Omani Riyal	.1859	.1867
UAE Dirham	.3650	.3700
Greek Drachma	1.4580	1.4680
Cypriot Pound	1.4580	1.4680

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	28/9/91	Close	29/9/91	Close
All-Share	120.94		122.01	
Banking Sector	101.34		105.16	
Insurance Sector	121.06		121.23	
Industry Sector	150.96		151.06	
Services Sector	128.58		128.58	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7520/30	U.S. dollars	1.1317/22
One U.S. dollar	1.6615/22	Canadian dollar	1.4715/25
	1.8715/25	Deutsche marks	34.477/87
	34.242/28	Dutch guilders	5.6550/600
	1243/1244	Swiss francs	132.70/80
	6.0620/70	French francs	6.4100/50
	6.5000/50	Italian lire	350.50/351.00
	6.4100/50	Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

IMF expects weakest U.S. economic recovery

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects the United States to undergo its weakest economic recovery since World War II next year, although it should be able to avoid tumbling back into recession, a senior IMF official said.

The official said at a briefing for reporters that it looks as if the U.S. economy will contract by a half per cent in 1991. The IMF had previously been forecasting a quarter per cent rise in U.S. gross national product this year.

The IMF expects the U.S. economy to grow at roughly 2.5 per cent next year, he added.

"We are forecasting the weakest recovery since the last war," he said. "But we believe the United States will avoid a double-dip recession."

Under terms of the briefing the official was not to be identified.

A string of recent economic statistics, including last week's news that the economy shrank by a half per cent in the second quarter, has raised doubts about the strength and durability of the recovery.

President George Bush is clearly worried and huddled twice with his top economic advisers last week to try to come up with ways to keep the economy moving forward.

Briefing reporters ahead of the IMF's annual meeting next month in Bangkok, the IMF official said the economy's recent mixed performance was typical of economic turning points.

The IMF is scheduled to release its updated economic forecasts for the United States and the rest of the world economy formally next week ahead of its joint annual meeting with the World Bank.

To help ensure an economic upswing during the 1992 presidential election campaign, the Bush administration is looking to the independent Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, to cut interest rates now and keep them low into next year.

But the IMF official instead emphasised the importance of the central bank being ready to tighten policy if needed to avoid a

pick-up in inflation as the recovery takes hold.

"Our major concern ... is that as soon as the recovery is in place that monetary policy be implemented with the needed degree of restraint to avoid any further inflationary developments," he said.

"The U.S. economy, as other industrial economies throughout the world, went through a shallow recession while maintaining a too-high level of inflation," he said.

The IMF expects industrial countries to record economic growth of about one per cent this year. Inflation in the industrial world is expected to fall from five per cent last year to 4.5 per cent in 1991 and 3.75 per cent in 1992, a level the official said was still too high.

Another IMF official said an economic recovery was already under way in Canada and the United Kingdom, but economic growth in Japan and Western Germany should slow next year from their recent rapid pace.

Chinese foreign debt rises 27%

BEIJING (AP) — China's foreign debt rose 27 per cent in 1990 to \$52.55 billion, the government has said, but maintained that the increase was not dangerously high.

"The debt rate and the debt service ratio were within the limits that are internationally held reasonable," the state-run Xinhua news agency quoted an official of the State Administration of Exchange Control as saying.

Meanwhile, China's exports in the first eight months of the year soared to a record \$35.54 billion, up 17 per cent from the same period of 1990, a separate Xinhua report said.

Imports lagged far behind at \$19.06 billion. The government said that figure was up 9.2 per cent from the same period of 1990, but 1990 makes for a low comparative base because imports were cut sharply then.

China has pushed hard to increase its trade surplus over the past few years in an effort to raise foreign currency to repay its loans and fund economic modernisation.

The official from the State Administration of Exchange Control did not explain the reason for 1990's sharp increase in foreign borrowing. One likely factor is the relaxation of Western sanctions that had frozen most low-interest lending to China for months after its army crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989.

Latvia sets out to rebuild economy after 51 years of Soviet rule

RIGA, Latvia (R) — The sudden advent of independence after the failed Soviet coup has launched Latvia on a crash effort to build a new economy.

"Now that the coup is over, there is an absolutely different situation," said Ojars Kelris, head of the Latvian parliament's special commission on economic reform.

Latvian officials recognise their strong economic dependence on the Soviet Union, but rule out joining an economic community of former Soviet republics.

Mr. Kelris told a news conference that parliament must quickly pass new laws on private property, foreign investment, banking and currency.

Latvia must also negotiate with the Soviet Union on the future of all-union enterprises — those controlled by Moscow — which parliament has decreed belong to Latvia, he said. This sector, which accounts for 40 per cent of Latvia's output, is likely to be excluded from privatisation.

Western and Latvian officials and economic experts say that once the reforms are in place, Latvia's prosperity will depend on exploiting its position as an east-west link with close ties to the European Community, and on lots of Western money.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said recently in Riga he would encourage leading industrial countries to increase their aid to include the

Iraq says oil export capacity rising

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq's crude oil export capacity may reach 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) by the end of the year from the current one million, Iraq's oil minister told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) in an interview.

But Osama Al Hiti did not say whether Iraq was prepared to start exporting oil under the uncompromising U.N. Security Council Gulf ceasefire conditions which it has rejected as an infringement on its sovereignty.

"We have the immediate capacity to export one million b/d and we can reach 1.5 million b/d by the end of this year. All of this would be through the Turkish pipeline system," Mr. Hiti told the oil industry newsletter when interviewed in Geneva.

The Security Council agreed to ease the trade blockade imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait to allow Baghdad to sell oil to pay for food and medicine. Iraq rejected conditions leaving the U.N. in control of proceeds from the oil sales and controlling distribution of food.

Mr. Hiti said Iraq's oil output was only around 450,000-500,000 b/d due to export constraints.

Iraq was refining around 450,000 b/d and 50,000 b/d of crude oil was trucked to Jordan.

The Iraqi minister said Iraq could reach its pre-Gulf crisis output level of 3.2 million b/d in the second half of 1992.

Iraq was working on its January 1990 plan to develop known oilfields with the help of the foreign companies and this might involve production sharing, he added.

Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) chief Fadhl Othman was quoted as saying in another oil newsletter that SOMO was preparing to sell crude oil again once Baghdad approves the U.N. terms and the U.N. has its mechanisms in place to monitor the sales.

SOMO was talking to "old and potential new customers about price and other terms" in anticipation of a possible breakthrough permitting the sales, Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW) quoted him as saying.

Algeria bows to IMF terms

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has devalued the dinar by 22 per cent and tightened money supply to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions in an accord for standby credit, the economy minister said in an interview published Monday.

Minister Hocine Benissad told the newspaper Alger Republicain the IMF had wanted the dinar cut to a rate of between 24 and 26 dinars to the dollar from Aug. 15.

But after negotiations last month he had won agreement that the rate should not exceed 22.5 dinars to the dollar.

The central bank of Algeria announced the 22 per cent devaluation Sunday and said inter-bank lending rates would rise one percentage point to 11.5 per cent.

The bank gave no new exchange rate and when commercial banks opened Monday the dinar, which is not freely convertible, was marked unchanged at 17.32 to the dollar. A central bank source said the new rate would be set later Monday.

By the IMF method of calculation, a 22 per cent devaluation would make the new rate about 22.2 dinars to the dollar.

A Western economic expert said the devaluation would reduce the 35 billion dinar deficit in the government's subsidy fund by increasing by 22 per cent the dinar value of the tax levied on Algeria's oil and gas exports, which are priced in dollars.

Money would also become tighter.

The IMF and the former government agreed last June to increase the prices of basic commodities by cutting subsidies.

Parliament rejected those proposals last month and the new government now plans to try to replace the subsidies with a system of direct payments to those below a poverty line.

Algeria has a foreign debt of \$25 billion, much of it short-term. If IMF approves economic reforms, foreign funding might become available to ease the debt repayment problem.

The president of the Algerian employers' confederation, Hamyeni Reda, said the devaluation would slow business down by increasing import prices and aggravating the slump in sales caused by lost purchasing power.

"These measures are directed towards foreign operators to persuade them to come to Algeria," he told the newspaper El Watan.

Smoin Lounis Kodja, vice-president of the General Confederation of Algerian Operatives (small businesses), said: "dozens of other businesses are going to close and there will be thousands more people unemployed."

Speaking on Algerian radio Sunday, the minister responsible for the treasury, Ali Benouari, said: "There is a plan of action to clean up businesses which takes into account the negative impact of this devaluation."

Mr. Benissad told Alger Republicain: "The devaluation of the Algerian dinar was envisaged in the June 3 agreement between the former government and the IMF in the event of non-devaluation the previous government pledged to let the dinar rate float."

"... Last August we decided against any idea of letting it float ... in the current conditions that would have involved a dramatic depreciation in the price of the dinar," he pointed out.

The Algerian government, moving from a centrally controlled to free-market economy, is trying to minimise the impact of the changes on the North African country's 25 million people.

Poverty and unemployment, set officially at 1.2 million and rising by 200,000 a year, are widely seen as important factors behind the Islamic fundamentalist unrest that hit the country in June. Fifty-five people were killed.

Mr. Benissad last month forecast inflation at 30 per cent for 1991. Official figures said inflation was 16.7 per cent in 1990 and 9.3 per cent in 1989.

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CONCORD

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Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

Oct 3, 1991
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with

SOMERSAULT TIME PLAY

Starring: The family of 'Abu Awwad neighbourhood'
Shows start at 8:30 every evening

PHILADELPHIA

THE KIT KAT

(Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

RAINBOW

SATAN'S SOLUTION

(Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Yugoslav army sends tanks and troops towards Croatia

BELGRADE (R) — Two long convoys of Yugoslav army tanks, artillery and trucks thundered out of Belgrade under cover of darkness Monday and headed towards Croatia, where fierce fighting battered a shaky truce.

Witnesses said a first column of about 200 vehicles, including up to 30 tanks, poured out of the Yugoslav and Serbian capital after 3 a.m. (0200 GMT).

A Reuters reporter saw a second column of about 100 trucks carrying soldiers, artillery and supplies set out an hour later. It was waved on by people going to work as it rumbled up the motorway towards the Croatian capital Zagreb.

Tanjug News Agency reported the convoys' departure but there was no official comment on its destination.

Diplomats said the reinforcements were expected to move up to the border with Croatia and pause there before launching any offensive — a pattern followed by a huge column which left Belgrade on Sept. 19 and attacked in Croatia the next day.

Croatian radio reported two deaths in overnight battles in

eastern Croatia and a senior Croatian official branded the new troop movements a violation of a ceasefire agreed by the army and the rebel republic on Sept. 22.

"They will lose lots of tanks. This is contravention of the ceasefire," Mario Nobilo, an adviser to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, said.

He said the army would not be able to conquer Croatia by force but would try to hold on to areas it now controls, such as the southern region around the town of Knin.

"In terms of finance, morale, fuel and the diplomatic situation, we are better off than they are," Mr. Nobilo said.

Yugoslavia has been hurtling towards all-out civil war since Croatia declared independence on June 25 and Serbs in the republic rebelled. Croatian officials say more than 1,000 people have been killed.

The European Community, which has been negotiating with the warring sides and has sent 200 ceasefire monitors to Yugoslavia, was expected to discuss the crisis at a meeting of its ministerial council in Brussels Monday.

The renewed fighting and army movements threw further doubts over the fragile truce.

Croatian radio said two Croatian National Guardsmen were killed and six were wounded during the night in battles on a road between Sid and Mirkovci in eastern Croatia, close to the border with the rival Republic of Serbia.

It reported heavy fighting between the army and Croatian forces in villages nearby and said an oil well was on fire in the town of Srijemske Laze, engulfing it in thick black smoke.

The radio also reported fighting in four villages near Karlovac in central Croatia but gave no details.

In a sign of growing fears of attack, Croatian television said a full mobilisation of able-bodied men had been ordered in Nova Gradiska and nearby Novska in central Croatia.

The army also mobilised men aged between 20 and 60 in the Bosanska Krajina region of the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which border Croatia, the region's commander said.

The army and Croatian forces

accused each other of violating the ceasefire in weekend battles which Croatian media said six people killed and injured more than 80.

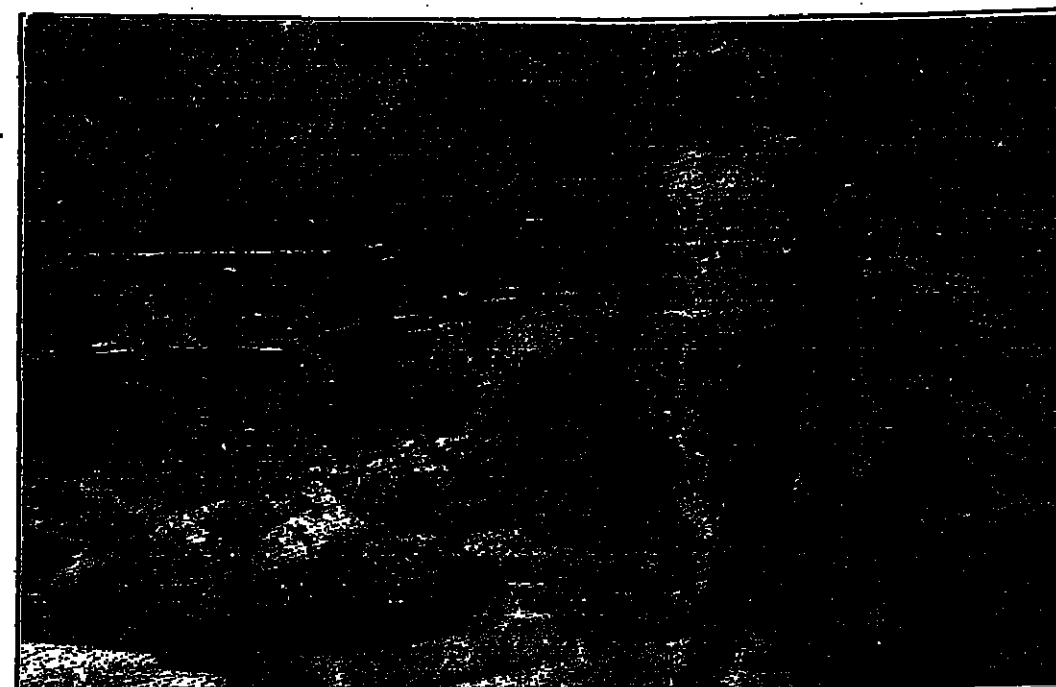
An army withdrawal from two towns in Croatia last week raised hopes of a partial disengagement between Croatian forces and the army and Serbian fighters.

But the army, shaken by desertions and dissent, said Sunday Croatian officials did not turn up for talks on its proposal to pull out of bases at three Adriatic ports.

The army says Croatian forces have not complied with an agreement to ease blockades of food, power and water to federal army bases in Croatia and that it is running out of patience.

"The army... would no longer tolerate provocations and attacks on positions of its units and would not bear responsibility for the consequences," Tanjug said.

In a further setback for the army, Croatian forces said they took 400 federal soldiers prisoner at an army barracks in the town of Bjelovar which they seized Sunday.



A grave digger in Osijek walks past the graves of Croatian National Guards killed in recent battles with Serbs trying to seize the eastern Croatian city.

Twin blasts rock Soviet Georgian capital

TBILISI, USSR (R) — Explosions rocked Georgia's opposition headquarters and a government ministry as peace talks foundered and the Soviet republic plunged deeper into turmoil.

Doctor said at least five people were injured in a powerful blast late Sunday at the television centre in the capital Tbilisi, which rebels opposing President Zviad Gamsakhurdia have turned into an armed stronghold.

Several more were reported injured in a second explosion at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Supporters and opponents of the Nationalist president have been locked in confrontation since early September in Georgia, a volatile trans-Caucasian republic of 5.4 million people. At least six people have been killed.

Sunday's blasts, followed by an exchange of fire between rebel guards and Mr. Gamsakhurdia loyalists, shattered hopes of a negotiated peace accord to end the standoff.

The crisis is currently the most acute in any of the 12 Soviet republics, which President Mikhail Gorbachev is trying to knit into a loose, voluntary union of sovereign states.

Opposition leaders said the blast at the television centre was caused by an anti-tank weapon fired close to the building by pro-Gamsakhurdia forces. They showed reporters splinters of twisted metal which they said were remnants of the device.

"Zviad is trying to provoke us," said opposition chief and former Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia denied his men were to blame.

"The explosion you heard was the opposition aiming for the parliament building," he told Reuters. Witnesses said there was no damage to the parliament.

At the Agriculture Ministry, fifth-floor windows were blown out by an explosion whose cause was not immediately known. A night duty officer said an official working in the building had been cut by flying glass and a military spokesman said several guards at a nearby checkpoint were also hurt.

In the past few days Mr. Gamsakhurdia — a dictator to his opponents, a nationalist hero to his supporters — has appeared to gain the upper hand. The opposition has dropped a demand for his resignation while continuing to press for access to national television and an end to the state broadcasting monopoly.

After two days of talks, however, both sides said Sunday there was stalemate.

Soviet news agency (TASS) quoted Mr. Sigua as saying the talks were blocked because of government insistence that rebel National Guardsmen immediately surrender their arms.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mrs. Marcos puts off plans to return

MANILA (R) — Exiled former first lady Imelda Marcos has put off her plans to return to the Philippines after President Corason Aquino's government extended her entry permit for one month, her lawyer said Monday. Mrs. Aquino last month gave Mrs. Marcos a one-way travel permit to return to her homeland by Oct. 5, but extended it Sunday until Nov. 5 at Mrs. Marcos's request, attorney Antonio Coronel said by telephone. Mrs. Marcos said in Honolulu last weekend she would return to Manila Friday with the body of her late husband, deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, if her request for an extension was not granted. "Definitely she is not coming on Oct. 4. We have one month within which to decide when she will return," Mr. Coronel said.

Aquino admits base treaty defeated

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino has acknowledged for the first time that a new lease for a U.S. naval base had been defeated, and said she would focus on arranging an orderly withdrawal. About 3,000 residents of Olongapo, garrison city of the Subic Bay Naval Base, rallied in the rain outside Subic's main gate to denounce the 12 senators who had voted to close the installation. During her weekly radio programme Sunday, Mrs. Aquino urged the senate to come up with a reasonable schedule for the U.S. to vacate the base, which they have used since 1898. "All have agreed that it is really a withdrawal since we already have a rejection of the treaty," she said. On Sept. 16, the Senate voted 12-11 to reject a new agreement under which the United States would give up its other major Philippine installation, Clark Air Base, but keep Subic for 10 more years in return for \$203 million in aid. Clark was to have been abandoned because of damage from the Mount Pinatubo eruption.

N. Ireland police shoot man dead

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland police investigating reports of a suspect bomb Sunday night shot dead a man and arrested two others. Police said the shooting, in the County Tyrone town of Cookstown, happened when they challenged three men and "an object" was thrown at them. Meanwhile Northern Ireland's Law and Order Minister Lord Belstead said Britain was urgently considering police reinforcements for the province. He spoke after the killing Saturday of Catholic news agent Larry Murchan by Protestant extremists. Mr. Murchan became the 2,000th civilian victim of the Northern Ireland conflict. Mr. Belstead said a recent spate of "tit-for-tat" sectarian killings by Protestant and Republican gunmen had prompted him to look at the police request for reinforcements "seriously, urgently and positively in the present situation."

Social Democrats lose in Bremen poll

BONN (R) — Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) suffered a sharp loss as voters turned to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Conservatives in local polls in the city-state of Bremen. A small ultra-right party also picked up votes in the North Sea port, Germany's smallest state, as a wave of right-wing violence against foreigners across the country entered its third week. Computer tallies by the ARD television network showed the SPD slumping to 38.9 per cent of the vote from 50.5 per cent four years ago, losing the absolute majority they had held for 20 years in Bremen. Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) drew 31.2 per cent, some eight per cent more than 1987, a welcome boost for the party after it lost two state elections this year. The Bremen result left open whether the SPD there would seek an unusual coalition with the CDU or a three-party government with the environmentalist Greens, who slightly improved their showing to 11.2 per cent in the ARD tally, and the liberal Free Democrats, who maintained their 10.1 per cent share of the vote.

German Neo-Nazis attack immigrants

BONN (R) — Neo-Nazis attacked at least seven homes for immigrants across Germany as a wave of racist assaults went into its third week, police said Sunday. Leftist demonstrators protesting against the upsurge in Neo-Nazi violence clashed with police in the East German town of Hoyerswerda, where a refugee centre was evacuated last Monday after a week-long siege by right-wing gangs. German President Richard von Weizsaecker announced a visit this week to a refugee centre, the first such step by a Bond politician since the Hoyerswerda riots against foreigners. "Treating foreigners the way we have seen in recent weeks is alarming and disgraceful," Mr. Von Weizsaecker said in a radio interview. Attacks on refugee housing in both halves of united Germany have come almost nightly since the Hoyerswerda unrest and a Sept. 19 fire, believed to be arson, that killed an African man in Saarland hostel.

British Labour Party opens meeting

BRIGHTON, England (R) — Britain's Labour Party began its annual conference Sunday with a reminder of the left-wing extremist which helped keep it in opposition for 12 years. At the last conference before an impending general election, several delegates angrily condemned the leadership for barring two members of parliament suspended from party office last week because of their links with the Marxist militant faction. "We want a victory in the general election, but this does not help us," delegate David Griffiths told the conference at the south coast resort of Brighton. Others also denounced the decision, later confirmed in an overwhelming vote by the conference, as a "witch hunt" and one declared: "They should have the right to reply — even in Russia they're getting that now." The dispute distracted attention from efforts by party leader Neil Kinnock finally to cut the ties to Labour's divisive and left-wing past.

Venezuelan deputy minister shot

CARACAS, Venezuela (R) — Venezuelan Deputy Justice Minister Jose Alberto Morales Gomez was shot and wounded early Sunday morning by an unknown man who opened fire in an apparent robbery attempt. Police said four men drew up in a car and apparently tried to steal Mr. Morales Gomez's car as he was leaving in restaurant. One of the men fired on him when he resisted.

COLUMN

Boy goes wild after eating chocolate, now on diet

LONDON (R) — A nine-year-old boy who played havoc in his home town in northern England after eating chocolate has been put on a special diet. Wayne Thackray, said by doctors to be allergic to chocolate, shattered all the windows in his local church and smashed dozens of gravestones. Experts said Wayne, from Yorkshire, went wild after eating chocolate. His catalogue of destruction included trying to derail a train by placing concrete blocks on track, setting fire to local building sites and breaking into garages and sheds. Wayne is now on a strict, chocolate-free diet. "He's having to live on bland vegetables and meat. And like it or not he's grounded from now. We don't want him in any more trouble," his mother Carol said.

Soviet radio: No risk of children going wild on chocolate

MOSCOW (R) — There is no chance of Soviet children behaving like a nine-year-old British boy who ran wild after eating chocolate, Soviet radio said Monday. "We don't have any chocolate," said a radio announcer mournfully. "I myself have not seen any for two months." Food shortages in the Soviet Union are endemic, with long queues for even the most basic staples.

Russian building materials workers paid in bricks

MOSCOW (R) — Workers in the northern Russian city of Tver will soon be getting heavier pay packets — part of their monthly salary will be paid in bricks. Under a new system introduced by Building Materials Factory Number One in Tver, workers with more than 10 years service can exchange every rouble they earn for four bricks. The rest will get three bricks per rouble. Soviet news agency (TASS) said the workers were pleased because, in the current climate of shortages, bricks were worth far more than the near-worthless Soviet currency.

Japanese farmer wins contest with 275.1 kg pumpkin

TOKYO (AP) — Last year, Shoji Shirai won a nationwide giant pumpkin contest with a 175-kilogramme (385-pound) entry. This year, he grew a 275.1-kilogramme (605-pound) pumpkin to defend his championship. The next step is entry in a world contest in San Francisco Oct. 19-20, but Shirai will have to enter by photograph, said Tetsuo Suyama of the Shodoshima Furusato Mura, the southern Japan park where the Japan contest was held. U.S. quarantine rules would keep out the actual pumpkin, Suyama said. On Sunday, 235 pumpkins were weighed before more than 5,000 spectators, Suyama said from the park in Kagawa Prefecture (state) on the southern island of Shikoku. The Atlantic giant pumpkin entered by Shirai, a 42-year-old farmer from the northern island of Hokkaido, turned out to be 60 kilograms (132 pounds) heavier than its closest rival, Suyama said. Shirai has won the contest for the past three years.

'Roasting' sparks incendiary humour for Richard Pryor

NEW YORK (AP) — A "roasting" for comedian Richard Pryor sparked some incendiary humour. Said master of ceremonies Robin Williams: "It seems strange to have a roast for someone who did it to himself." About 1,000 people, including Chevy Chase, Joan Rivers, Dick Gregory, Masha Warfield, Bill Murray and Gene Wilder, gathered for the roast Friday at a New York hotel. "We're here to honour a man who proved that black is beautiful — and flammable," Williams said. "A man who became the Olympic torch. Truly the hottest man in show business. A man who never had a drug problem — if you mean by that a problem getting drugs." Pryor was severely burned in 1980 while freebasing cocaine. He had bypass surgery in May and had to be helped to the podium during the tribute. "I've never seen so many white people in one room who didn't want to hurt me," Pryor, who is black, teased the crowd.

French government 'divided' over dumping Mobutu

PARIS (R) — The French government is split over policy towards riot-torn Zaire with President Francois Mitterrand resisting pressure to withdraw all support from President Mobutu Sese Seko, government sources said Monday.

They said the Foreign Ministry and several cabinet ministers advocated dissociating France completely from Mr. Mobutu, arguing he typified a corrupt, autocratic style of leadership which French governments had indulged for too long in Africa.

But Mr. Mitterrand, who jealously monopolises African policy, was reluctant to undermine any lead of state, especially one who had been a loyal friend of France for 26 years, and feared his departure would call into question Africa's colonial borders.

"We are the only country still aiding Mobutu except perhaps South Africa. The Americans dropped him as soon as the Angolan civil war was over," a senior government source said. France sent nearly 1,000 troops last week to protect and evacuate

foreign residents after two days of widespread riots and looting in Zaire. The forces helped restore order and their withdrawal could trigger a renewed outbreak of violence.

Mr. Mitterrand's defenders said his cautious handling of Mobutu had helped bring about the formation of a coalition government with opposition leaders and may yet save Zaire from plunging into chaos and ethnic blood-letting.

"We may just be able to ensure a gentle transition," one of the president's supporters said.

The sources said the dispute over Zaire reflected a deeper rift within the Socialist government between ministers who argued France should promote democracy more actively in Africa and Mitterrand's office which was cautious about any tampering with the status quo.

Although the president made a public call for more democracy in Africa at a Franco-African summit in La Baule in June 1990, France has continued to help stabilise long-standing pro-Western authoritarian rulers.

After that speech, King Hassan of Morocco angrily accused Mr. Mitterrand of having "injected the cancer of democracy into Africa."

The Zaire policy dispute burst into the open last week when Secretary of State for Humanitarian Action Bernard Kouchner, a cabinet gadfly, dubbed Mr. Mobutu "a walking bank account with a leopard banner" and said he should "return to his people the money he embezzled."

Far from rebuking Mr. Kouchner, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas hinted at sympathy for his view, telling reporters that while he could not use the same language, "you may detect a note of regret in my reply."

A diplomatic source said the Foreign Ministry had argued for some time that France should drop a certain number of dictators in Africa. Mr. Mobutu was on that list, the source said.

Another source said Mr. Mitterrand was so concerned to uphold colonial borders in Africa that he had resisted advice to back Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia even after the Un-

ited States brokered a peace settlement there.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mobutu, ceding some power after more than a quarter of a century of autocratic rule, has asked opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi to form a crisis government.

The beleaguered president, who earlier fired his army chief, ended a week of chaos and looting Sunday by agreeing to the choice of Tshisekedi, his fiercest adversary since 1980, after nine hours of talks with his opponents.

"I have no comment to make," Mr. Tshisekedi, interior minister before he split with Mr. Mobutu, said gravely as he left the marathon talks at the Marble Palace.

Aides said he had accepted the challenge of trying to steer Zaire through crisis in an uneasy tandem with Mr. Mobutu.

Mr. Mobutu, engaged in a determined fight to prolong his 26-year rule, emerged into a crowd of reporters looking impassive.

Asked if the negotiations with a score of opposition leaders had gone well, the 60-year-old president replied: "I think so."

Roh urges North to abandon nuclear programme

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo urged North Korea Monday to abandon its nuclear programme, widely believed to be aimed at building a bomb.

"To thwart nuclear weapons development in North Korea has become an urgent task not only for us but also for the entire community of nations," Mr. Roh said in a statement on his return from a visit to the United States and Mexico.

"The North must unconditionally abandon its nuclear facilities. It should agree to and actually implement specific measures to resolve military confrontation and establish peace on the Korean peninsula," he said.

North Korea has refused to allow international inspection of its nuclear programme, which Western experts believe could produce a weapon within the next few years. Pyongyang denies it is trying to build a bomb.

North Korea has hailed President George Bush's announcement of dramatic cuts in nuclear weapons worldwide.

Gunfire rains on Haiti president's home

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Heavy gunfire hit the home of Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide in an apparent coup attempt before dawn Monday, a government minister said.

Shooting was heard throughout the city from shortly after midnight (0400 GMT) and residents in several areas said the gunfire came from armed men circulating in jeeps.

State-run Radio National broadcast a plea for doctors to go to the main hospital in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti's capital, to treat the wounded.

"A lot of people were wounded and some were killed," Radio National reported.

At dawn, Information Minister Marie Laurence Lasguez went on the radio with sketchy in-

formation, saying: "Many people are shooting on the president's house at this moment, and I thought it was my obligation to inform the people of Haiti."

She gave no details and did not say if Mr. Aristide had been injured.

But Ms. Lasguez implied the shooting was being carried out by the same group of soldiers who kidnapped the director of state-owned Radio National a few hours earlier.

The director, Michel Favard, was taken from the radio station by seven armed men dressed in military fatigues just before midnight, according to a report broadcast by Radio National.

The men walked into the radio station and demanded to know where Mr. Favard had obtained

information for a report broadcast late Sunday that said a coup attempt might be made. The report gave no details about the plot.

Mr. Aristide lives in a small cement house surrounded by a security fence in a northern suburb of Port-Au-Prince.

The former priest, who became Haiti's first democratically elected president last December, chose to live there rather than in the opulent presidential palace in the heart of the capital city.

Ms. Lasguez's statement was made after earlier comments by a political source close to Mr. Aristide who said there had been a coup attempt but that Mr. Aristide maintained control of the government.

11 troops, 5 rebels killed in Sri Lanka clash

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil rebels attacked government troops encircling in a playground in eastern Sri Lanka Monday sparking a gunbattle that killed 11 soldiers and five rebels, police said.

The clash erupted when 25 fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked the soldiers who were doing exercises in a playground, police said. One soldier was wounded.

The soldiers were part of a detachment protecting a Sinhalese village called 13th colony in eastern Ampara district.

The village has been target of attacks by Tiger rebels who have camps in nearby jungles.

The Tigers are fighting to set up an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east.

Authorities Monday clamped a curfew on two eastern districts where security forces backed by air force planes attacked Tamil rebel targets.

The curfew was imposed in some areas of Batticaloa and Ampara where two army battalions are seeking rebel hideouts,

military sources said.

Aircraft that bombed a rebel hideout in Batticaloa Saturday, wounding 12 rebels, continued attacks on other rebel positions, the sources said.

Curfews were in force for the third day in northwestern Mannar and northern Vavuniya districts where troops have launched a fresh operation against the Tigers.

The army denied at the weekend newspaper reports that military operations in the north and east had been suspended.

Savimbi's return opens new phase in Angolan peace process

LUANDA, Angola (AP) — The triumphal return of U.S.-backed rebel leader Jonas Savimbi to the capital marks a new phase in the peace process that ended fighting in Angola's 16-year civil war.

"It is important... that we will cooperate with the government in peace, but we are an opposition movement," Mr. Savimbi said Sunday before a cheering crowd of some 60,000 people in Luanda.

Mr. Savimbi's UNITA rebels and the once-Communist government pledged in a May 31 accord to hold democratic elections by the fall of 1992.

After 15 years of waging guerrilla warfare against the government, Mr. Savimbi is expected to

lead UNITA's political campaign from Luanda and prepare his own bid for the presidency.

Since the accord was signed, UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, has held rallies in the capital, hung posters of Mr. Savimbi around the city and received wide coverage in the state-run media.

Officials on an international observer team overseeing the peace process have expressed surprise at how well the two sides are cooperating so soon after ending one of Africa's longest and most bitter civil wars.

U.S., Soviet, Portuguese and United Nations teams have

joined representatives from the two Angolan factions on the monitoring group.

There were no reports of any violence during the mass meeting UNITA organised in Luanda Sunday. During Mr. Savimbi's visit to the central port of Lobito Friday, there were noisy but peaceful exchanges between UNITA partisans and government supporters.

The date of the elections and details of the electoral system are due to be announced in November after consultations between the government, UNITA and other political groups.

"I believe that the parties that were formed recently have the

same rights that we do and we want to establish a dialogue with them," Mr. Savimbi said Sunday.

Angolans now face the enormous task of forming a democracy, rebuilding a shattered economy, forging a united army from warring factions and clearing countless mines from the countryside.

Mr. Savimbi formed UNITA in 1966 as one of three nationalist movements fighting Portuguese colonial rule.

When the pro-Soviet Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, or MPLA, gained power in Luanda in 1975, Mr. Savimbi fled south.

From his bush headquarters,

he built UNITA into a force that government officers admitted was the best guerrilla army in Africa.

The Angolan civil war became a cold war battle. Mr. Savimbi received backing from South Africa and the United States. The government was armed by the Soviet Union and supported by Cuban soldiers.

An estimated 500,000 people, mostly civilians, died as a result of the conflict. The war also wrecked the Angolan economy, potentially one of the richest in Africa. Angola is the second-largest sub-Saharan oil producer after Nigeria and the world's fifth-ranking source of diamonds.